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This Week

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Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine
November 27 2000 Vol 113 No.48

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Cover photos by Peter Bregg/Maclean's, John-Paul Mazzatti/Fred Chartrand and Jacques Boissinot/CP

Maclean's is published weekly, except for one double-issue at year end, by Rogers Media, 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont., M5W 1A7. Contents Copyright 2000 by Rogers Media, may not be reprinted without permission. Maclean's ISSN 0024-9262. Full subscription prices for one year (including taxes): Canada, $55.08; except Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, $59.21. CANADIAN POSTMASTER: Undeliverable copies and change of address notices to: *Maclean's*, P.O. Box 1600, Postal Station A, Toronto, Ont., M5W 2K8. Publications Mail agreement 749990 registration number 0839 23. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), towards our mailing costs. U.S. POSTMASTER: Periodicals postage paid at Buffalo, N.Y. USPS 106710. Send address changes (form 3579) to Maclean's, P.O. Box 4541, Buffalo, N.Y. 14240

ROGERS MEDIA



Phil Carpenter, CP

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Election 2000 has turned into a nasty, vituperative campaign, with substance clouded by angry rhetoric as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien slugs it out with his political opponents. As the Nov. 27 voting day approaches, *Maclean's* sizes up the parties, promises and personalities.

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Americans waited for their next president to emerge from a post-election battle dominated by partisan name-calling and legal challenges.

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How 79 abandoned Newfoundland sealers died in 1914 is one of the dramatic tales from a new *Maclean's* archival book, *In the Face of Disaster*.



Hockey Hall of Fame

90 The best books

Recent writing on the national game travels far across the globe and deep into the past, showing the game's transition from pond to rink and from Canada to the world.

From the

Editor



When elections are desperately close

The United States, understandably, is all aflutter about the presidential election results in a handful of counties in Florida. At stake are the 25 electoral college votes that could make George W. Bush or Al Gore president. Alex Campbell, the former premier of Prince Edward Island, must be amused by the hullabaloo. He came to power in 1966 after the votes of a mere 2,400 people in one little riding made the difference. And in 1972, Pierre Trudeau returned to office, in effect, because of four measly votes. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is unlikely to confront a cliffhanger on Nov. 27, but if he does, no one can use the dreadful U word, as in "unprecedented."

The 1966 scenario unfolded after a gruelling six-week provincial election on May 30 when Campbell's Liberals elected 16 members and Premier Walter Shaw's Conservatives 14. But a recount established that both sides had precisely 15 members. Because of the death of a Liberal candidate five days before the election, the vote in the riding of First King's was delayed until July. The other wrinkle was that in those days each constituency elected two members.

The campaign for the affections of the 2,400 voters in First King's was something to behold. One of the government's candidates—surprise, surprise—was appointed minister of highways and public works. The sudden care and feeding of residents was touching and gave birth to a classic political slogan: "If it moves, pension it; if it doesn't, pave it."

But the Tory largesse was in vain. Both members elected in First King's, including future federal minister Dan MacDonald, were Liberals. Campbell, at 32, became the youngest premier, defeating Shaw, at 78, the oldest.

Close calls are also not unknown at the federal level. In Pierre Trudeau's 1972 "The Land is Strong" campaign, Robert Stanfield's Conservatives elected 109 members, the Liberals 108, with the rest of the seats held by others.

What happened next made political history. A recount in Drummond riding reversed the result and gave Quebec Liberal Jean-Luc Pepin the win by five votes. Standings: 109 to 109. A week later, the final tally from remote Meadow Lake in Saskatchewan revealed that the NDP actually had won the seat, not the Tory, as declared on Oct. 30. Standings: Liberals 109, Tories 108. But five days later, a judicial recount reversed the outcome again in Drummond and Pepin was out. It was 108 to 108.

There was still another official recount pending in the riding of Ontario, east of Toronto. When the judge was finished, Liberal Norm Cafik won by four votes over Tory Frank McGee. Trudeau, who had won 38.5 per cent of the popular vote, compared with 35 per cent for Stanfield, now had the moral authority—well, a margin of 109 to 107—to form the government.

If by some wild turn the Liberal vote collapses on Nov. 27 and a stalemate looms, Canadians do not have to look to Florida for lessons. We can turn to our own history to ponder two of the closest elections known to democracies. Sometimes, every vote really does count.

Robert Lewis

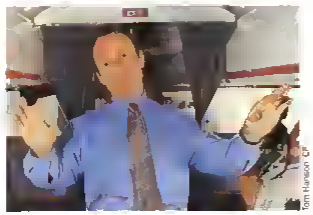
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Newsroom Notes

Now, heeere's Doris!

Chris Baker, a vice-president at Environics Research Group, got it right in an interview for this week's cover story. Reflecting on the way the parties' polling numbers seem to have been stuck in Krazy Glue since the campaign began, Baker commented: "This is one of the weirdest elections I've ever seen."

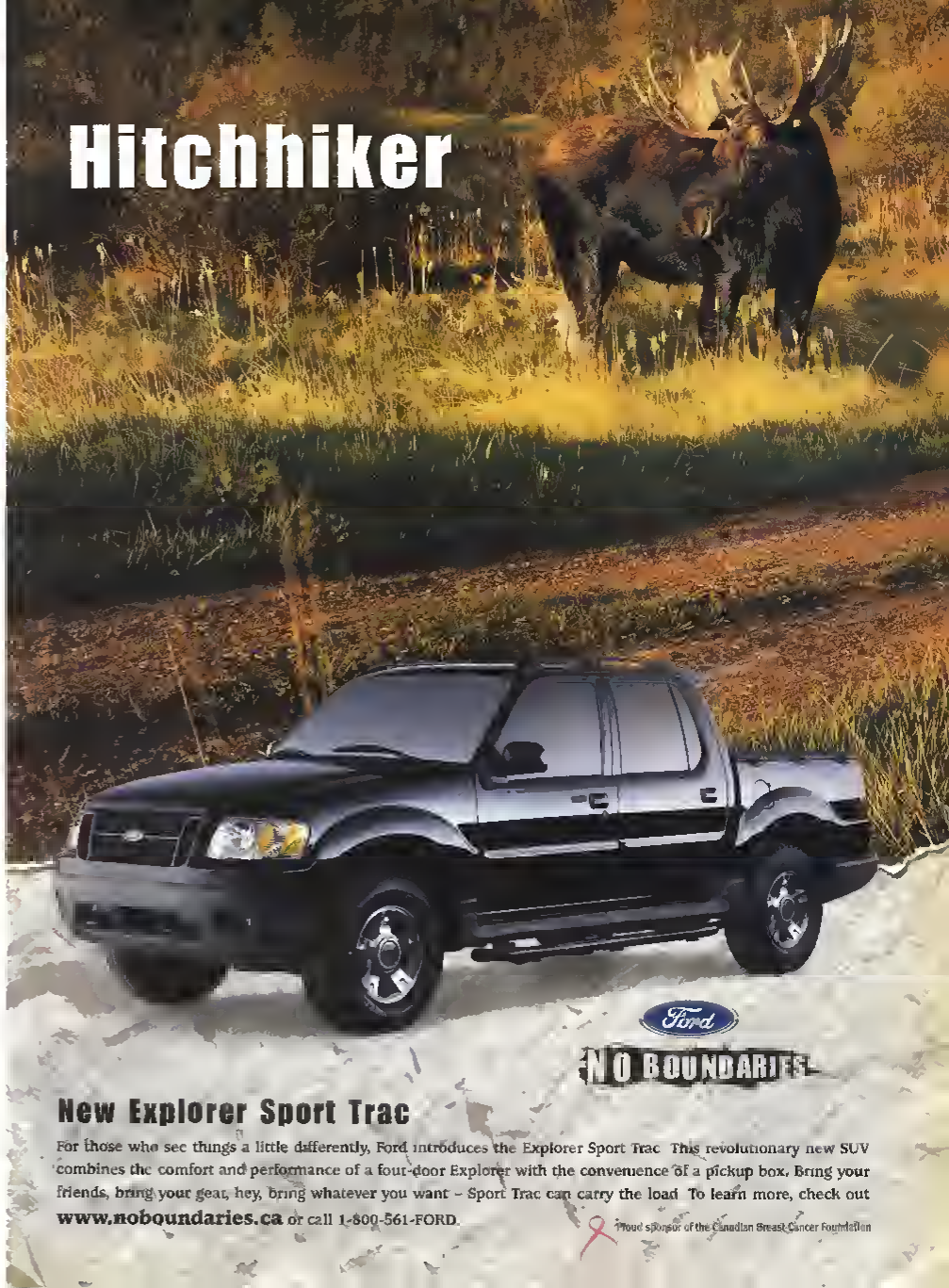
Weird's the word. No defining issues, no dazzling performances, precious little enthusiasm and no momentum for anyone. And what could be weirder than an election in which the public's imagination is captured by, of all things, a mock Web poll invented by a comedy crew (from CBC TV's *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*). Yes, hundreds of thousands of Canadians voted in favour of making the leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition change his name from Stockwell to Doris.



Tom Hanson CP

Stockwell sings Doris' Que Sera, Sera

Baker was one of the experts interviewed by Ottawa correspondents John Geddes and Julian Beltrame for the campaign wrap-up (page 18). Next week, they and the rest of the *Maclean's* team will work through the night on Nov. 27 as we hold the presses to bring readers full coverage of the election results—weird or otherwise. Stay tuned.



The Mail



Jim Young/Reuters

Leaders before debate: no manners

Election buzzwords

Once again, in this election campaign we hear the favourite buzzwords "two-tier health care" from those who think they are defending some great ideal ("Towards a two-tier system," On the Issues, Nov. 13). In Canada today, we already have a four-tier health-care system. In the fourth and lowest tier are those whose only medical insurance is medicare. This includes people on Employment Insurance, those working in many part-time jobs and in small companies, and the self-employed. Members of the third tier are somewhat better off because they have some supplemental coverage. They include many workers at medium or large companies and those on provincial welfare rolls. Tier-two folks are those with enough money to pay for health care out of their own pocket. And at the top, in tier one, are the small number of really rich. So, it is ridiculous for politicians to claim to be protecting us from two-tier medicare. Letting those with the funds pay just puts more money into the system, money that can be used to provide the lower tiers with faster and better-quality care. That, of course, assumes such services are not forced out of the country by knee-jerk reactions to politically charged buzzwords.

Ralph Allan, Prince George, B.C.

The TV commentator I was watching during the leaders' debate was mistaken when he said that Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day had brought a prop to his podium in contravention of the agreed-on rules ("A debate for the underdog," Election 2000, Nov. 20). It was not a prop, it was his cue card, to remind himself to say, "No two-tier health care," whenever the subject came up. Real Albertans know that means "in the near future, until we make the waiting lists so intolerable that everyone will demand it and then we will say we are just giving them what they want." So far, the death by a thousand cuts program is working splendidly.

Paul Mullen, Edmonton

After watching the Americans make such a mess of their election, I was awaiting some Canadian content as I prepared to watch the English-language debate. Smugness quickly turned to embarrassment as I watched the leaders turn it into an infantile yelling match. If I catch my children behaving this badly, they get sent to their room until they can remember their manners. Any relevant points were, for the most part, lost in the schoolyard antics. This debate did very little to enhance my decision on Nov. 27.

Michael Thompson, Courtice, Ont.

The Canadian way

I enjoyed Ken Dryden's essay, "The Canadian way" (Canada/Essay, Nov. 13), which was adapted from his Charles R. Bronfman Lecture in Canadian Studies delivered recently at the University of Ottawa. He called it "Find-a-way-ism." I agree with much of what Dryden said, but have heard, I think, a much sexier and succinct description from Royal Canadian Navy personnel here near Victoria of how Canadians are perceived in practical contexts around the world: the unhesitating answer is "as great improvisers." And that, I add, is at least as much due to our wonderful national game of ice hockey. Organizing, reorganizing, inventing, reinventing, unspoken teamwork, ever on the run. No game on the planet can match it. We are great improvisers, and greatly admired because of it.

Catherine M. Draper, Victoria

U.S. observation

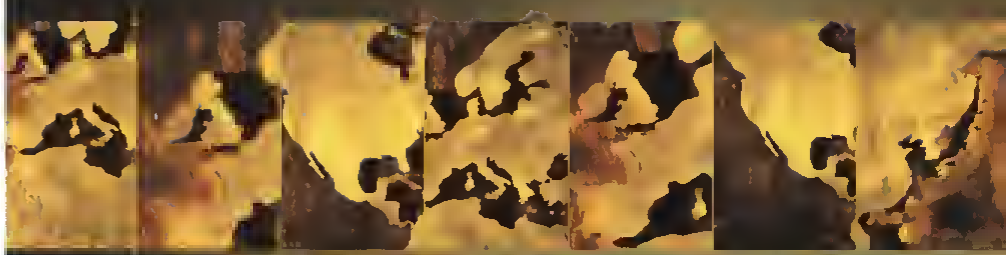
Regarding the U.S. election ("The closest call of all," World, Nov. 20), it is obvious that it is time for the United Nations to become involved and do

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what would be done in any other country in which election results were in question. Demand another vote, and this time make sure there are Canadian observers to ensure that the vote is fair.

Milton R. Best, Kitchener, Ont.

Middle East blame

I have read readers' responses to Barbara Amiel's article on the Israeli-Palestinian situation ("Peace never had a chance," Oct. 30). Letter writer Nazma Shivji ("Fanning the flames," Nov. 13) denounces Israel's 1967 "annexation of land by force," but she conveniently forgets that the Arabs declared war on Israel after the state was approved by the United Nations. Also, she talks about the "rock-throwing youngsters" still living in camps, but why are boys as young as 11 or 12 being sacrificed by their parents for such violence, and why are they still in camps? After 1948, Israel took in Jewish refugees from the Arab countries numbering in the hundreds of thousands, but the Arab countries have never offered that kind of compassion to the Palestinian Arabs. Anti-Zionism as preached by many Arabs today is only a thin disguise for the kind of anti-Semitism that engendered the Holocaust.

Rev. Peter Gilbert, Toronto

I want to congratulate Barbara Amiel on her ignorance when it comes to Middle Eastern peace. It is so easy for us, living thousands of miles away and exposed to biased news gathering, to judge a people considered worthless by Western standards. Amiel blames the victims for their miseries. She is blaming the Arabs for not absorbing their fellow Palestinians into their countries. That, to her short-sighted eyes, would have solved the Palestinian problem. As a Palestinian refugee myself, I can tell you that I was absorbed by an Arab country, but never felt for one second that I was not still a Palestinian.

Tarik Qahawish, Verdun, Que.

For more letters

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Fibroid treatment

I appreciate your shedding some light on the battles faced by numerous women who wish to be rid of debilitating fibroid tumours while keeping their wombs intact ("Saving the womb," Health, Nov. 13). However, I was astonished that your research failed to mention an alternative to unnecessary hysterectomies or experimental procedures such as uterine fibroid embolization. How about removal of the fibroids only, not the uterus? Such a procedure, called a myomectomy, was certainly welcome in my case, but it took years of searching before I found a gynecologist skilled and empathetic enough to treat the nightmare my fibroids had become, while not forcing me to give up my uterus to do so.

Sandy Goldman, Toronto

Qualified for PM

It is obvious that Dr. Fuzz is woefully uninformed with respect to the qualifications of Stockwell Day to become prime minister ("Just who is Stockwell Day?" Allan Fotheringham, Nov. 13). In his musings, he neglected to inform his readers that, for the past 14 years, Day has been an elected member of the Alberta Conservative government, serving for the past seven years in the cabinet as minister of labour, minister of social services and provincial treasurer. The people of Alberta know him and respect him. Dr. Fuzz, what have you done to serve this country?

Margaret N. Archibald, Forest, Ont.

Allan Fotheringham's column should make us all consider if having a university degree makes a person a better leader. If we believe that only a university-educated individual is capable of making good, sensible, morally right decisions, then we are shortchanging many people in this world. Life experience, self-education and maturity are excellent university equivalents.

Lynn Van Acker, Bowmanville, Ont.

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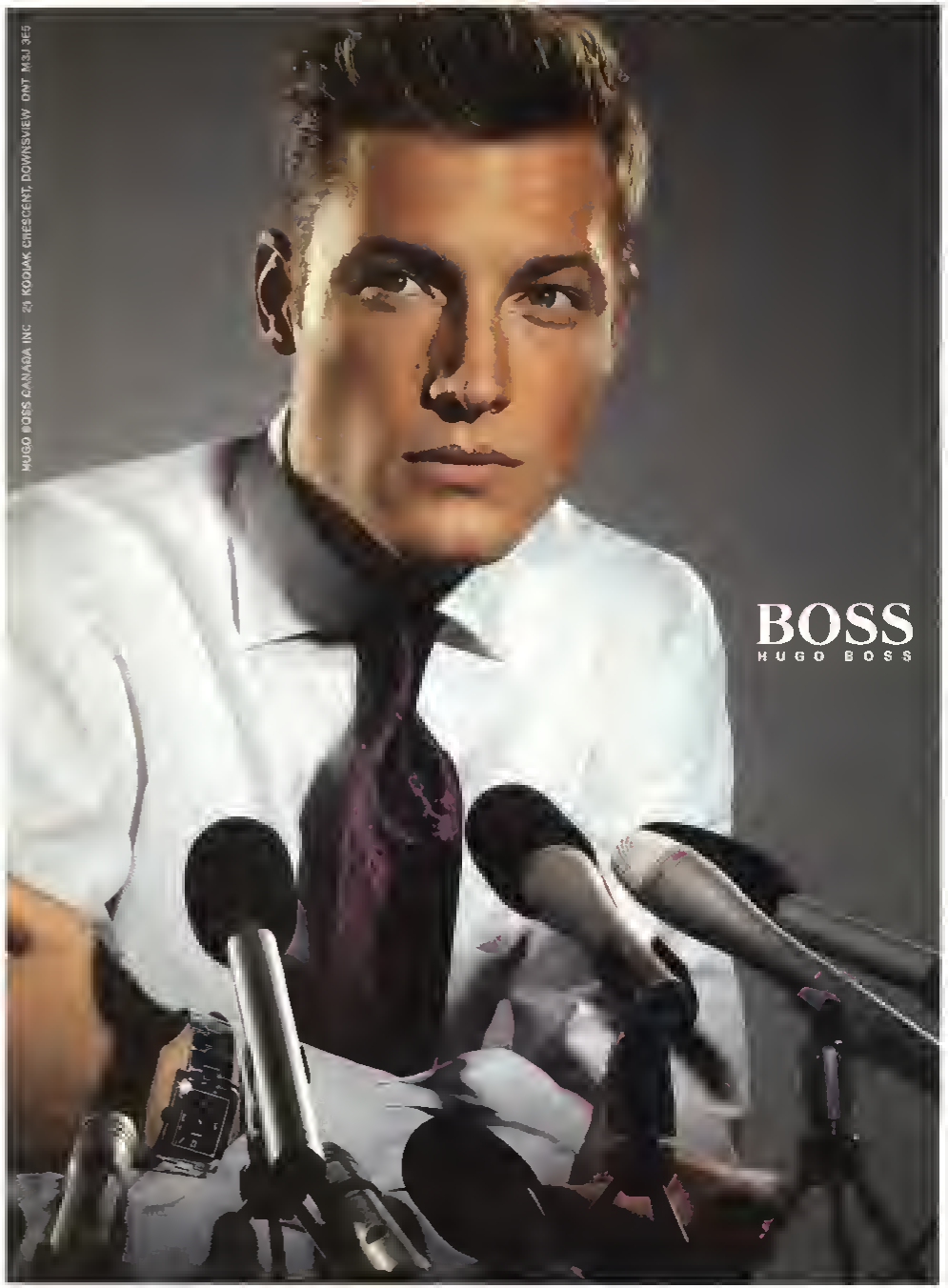
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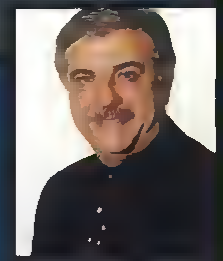
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Internet Car Leasing Does it work?



Marcel Stirpe, is the President and General Manager of QEW-427 Dodge Chrysler (1991) Inc. in Toronto as well as a director with the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association (TADA)

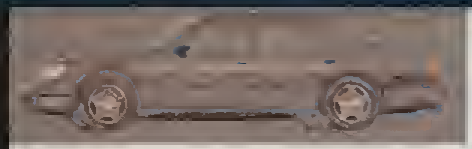
Internet Companies May Save you on Legwork, but not always on Price

The Internet makes it possible to get a new vehicle without having to step foot in a dealership, but be wary of the claims these online services make warns Marcel Stirpe, President and General Manager of QEW-427 Dodge Chrysler (1991) Inc. dealership in Toronto.

While many of these Web sites attract shoppers by claiming to offer great savings on vehicles, "it is important for consumers to understand that leasing companies must purchase their vehicles from new car dealers — the companies they are competing with," says Stirpe, a director with the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association (TADA).

"In other words, not only does the consumer end up paying the profit made by the online service, he or she also pays for the prof-





it made by the new car dealer who sold the vehicle to the online service."

Stirpe says leasing has become more popular over the years because of the low monthly payments, and the option to buy later. It has come to account for about 50 per cent of dealership sales today."

Misconception

"There is a huge perception that the customer can do a lot better by leasing a car from the Internet rather than using conventional methods.

This is probably because over 70 per cent of Web-surfing car shoppers think that online leasing services order their vehicles directly from the automaker, according to a 1999 (CNW) Marketing/Research study of Bandon, Ore."

In 1998, TADA compered the prices of one major leasing firm advertising on the Internet to prices offered by dealers, and found that the dealers' prices on every make and model were lower.

In the CNW study, it was also found that those who used leasing services on the Internet paid 6.5 per cent more then they would have if they had gone to a dealership. This percentage is up from 1998's figure which was less than five per cent.

"The Internet, if used on its own as a purchasing tool, does not prove to have the huge savings on vehicles that online companies claim it does. If used as a research tool, however, before going to a dealership to buy or lease, there are savings to be had," Stirpe says.

2001 Lincoln LS

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The Lincoln LS has an understated look of contemporary luxury. The style matches the car itself – not showy, but the classic look of a true North American beauty. The classic vertical trademark Lincoln waterfall grille is unmistakably Lincoln, and the integrated headlamps give a European flavor to a car quintessentially North American. Inside, the tastefully appointed interior includes polished wood with burled walnut appliques. The Lincoln LS puts a premium on creature comforts without drawing undue attention to itself. For instance, the memory driver's seat programs up to two specific drivers' exact seating, mirror and steering column positions. Raised "theatre-style" seating in the rear allows rear-seat passengers to feel less isolated from those in front. Optional heated front seats mean comfort in cooler climates or a little extra heat for those carefree late summer night drives with the windows down.

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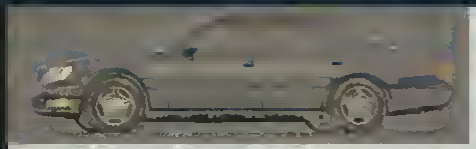
Term	Down payment
24 Month	$6,500
36 Month	$6,985

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dealer can offer many benefits that the Internet cannot

The Importance of a New Car Dealer:

Dealers often match and beat prices on vehicles offered by Internet services, according to Stirpe. The CNW study found that those consumers who researched car prices and features on the Internet prior to going to a dealership paid four per cent less than they would have by conventional dealing. Marcel Stirpe believes that the Internet is a very useful tool to obtain information about automobiles, but insists that consumers can only get half of their information from it, the other half has to come from a car dealer.

He feels that the Internet should complement a visit to a dealership, rather than substitute for it, because a

While Internet leasing services pride themselves on being "hassle-free" and denounce the need for a car dealer, dealers are very important in the leasing transaction because they can provide a trade-in value for a customer's old vehicle, which the Internet is unable to do directly.

By trading in an old vehicle to a dealer, a customer would be able to get the tax benefit from it. This means that if a customer is buying a car for $20,000, and the trade-in price for the old car is $5,000, the customer will pay 15 per cent tax only on the net difference — $15,000 — saving them a lot of money.

Customers would probably not be able to do bet-

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ter if they sold their old vehicles in a private sale, according to Stirpe. This is because they would have to pay to advertise their vehicles, and then wait for someone to purchase them, which involves a lot of time.

In addition to trade-ins, new car dealers can also provide customers with a number of funding options. They can offer low-cost financing because they have access to factory leasing rates, which are usually much better than what you can get from bank borrowing rates.

Stirpe says that another financial arrangement that can be made with the dealer is a retail vehicle delivery allowance rebate, which is cash in lieu of low-rate financing. Most Internet leasing companies are unable to offer such financial options.

Dealers also provide full vehicle service and warranty repairs, which the Internet companies are unable to do.

Stirpe says there are many other benefits of servicing your vehicle at a local dealership that is close to your work or home. "Not only is it more convenient, but it also builds a comfortable relationship between the customer and the dealer."

This was reinforced in a recent report by Automotive News which stated that Internet marketers have discovered that consumers prefer dealing with a local business.

Information on automobiles is available from a number of Web sites:

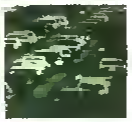
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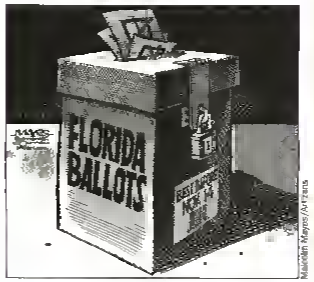
Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
with Shanda Deziel

Over and Under Achievers

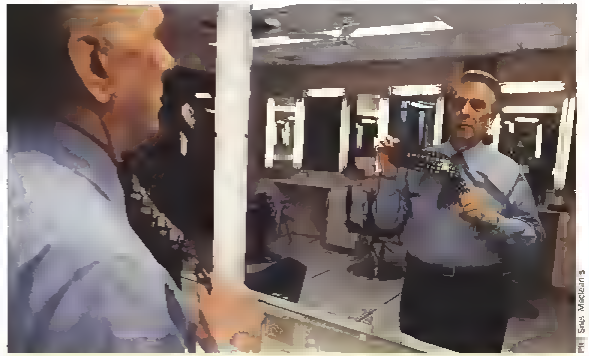
It's almost go time

Last call for election issues! Sing it. 'Alexa's got the money, Joe puts on a show, the PM says he's ready to go, go, go!'

- **Jean Chrétien:** Now, *here's* an original ploy from PM: vote for him, and he promises to think about quitting. Well, that should get him Paul Martin's vote.
- **Stockwell Day:** Acknowledges his belief that God created the world in seven days. On the eighth, He asked Day to change his first name to Doris.
- **Alexa McDonough:** Denounces corporate donations to other parties, then—*whoops!*—defends similar donations to provincial NDP wings. NDP moral for other parties: do as we do, not as we say.
- **Joe Clark:** The Comeback Kid continues on a roll. But will it be enough to win him his own seat?
- **Gilles Duceppe:** Has second-most-effective campaign promise—vote for me 'cuz I *can't* form a government. Now why didn't the Tories and NDP think of that?



Malcolm Mayes/Artizans


Phil Snel/Maclean's

Canada's most trusted anchor, recalls falling painters, computer crashes

And now...Lloyd's election news

Either on radio or from behind the television news desk, broadcaster ***Lloyd Robertson*** *has guided the country through 47 years of elections. Along the way, the CTV anchor has witnessed Canada's changing political climate, developed a belief in the sanctity of the democratic process and collected some humorous anecdotes. As he prepared to cover his 10th federal election night, Robertson shared some memorable moments with* Maclean's.

"In 1960, I was anchoring a municipal election in Ottawa and we had a painter who had been painting the set around the clock. When we signed on, he fell off the ladder and crashed onto the floor. What you heard as I was saying, 'Good evening, welcome to our election broadcast,' was this crash, bang and shout. He was totally exhausted—he heard us sign on and he wasn't aware that we were starting.

"In 1974, I was doing the election at CBC. I was in the anchor chair and the floor director came over and said, 'I've got a piece of news you'd be interested in: the computers have crashed at CTV and they're listening to us.' But other nights were more tense. It wasn't exactly an election, but the 1995 Quebec referendum was really stressful. Once you've done what I have for a long time—broadcast to the country and been to all corners of it—you get to know it. Its idiosyncrasies and how people think become a part of you. I had the feeling, and some others had the feeling, that maybe it will never be the same again, maybe we were going to lose what we've got here; and how would we make that adjustment?

"At the very last federal election in 1997, we called a Liberal majority government fairly early—too early for some people in the room. At one point, the Liberal majority began to fall as they went west. One of our staff said, 'Don't worry, they're going to pick up these seats in B.C.,' so we stuck with that call and sure enough, they did pick up those seats. But I can tell you our VP lost years off his life in those 45 minutes. We will continue to do projections, but this year we will be very aware of what happened in the United States. everyone will be more cautious."

Wayne's World (cont'd)

Back to the future for 2002 Games

When Wayne Gretzky was named to head Canada's Olympic men's hockey team for the 2002 Games, pundits wondered why the retired Great One would accept a no-win job. There will be terrible pressure in Salt Lake City, since Canada's players and fans expect nothing less than gold. But Gretzky told Maclean's *Sports Editor* **James Deacon** *that while he was devastated by the team's failure to win a medal in Nagano, Japan, he loved the 1998 Olympic experience when, for two weeks, a bunch of millionaire hockey players got to play for nothing more than pride*



The Great One: an Olympic gold medal is one of the few honours he lacks

"Being part of the Olympics and meeting athletes in other sports, it took me back to my youth. It was like being billeted with a family, playing weekend tournaments where every game is a pressure game. The hockey players loved the athletes' village. We had great food, and a common room with a TV that had the Canadian feed. So when we weren't practising, guys were always in that room with other athletes, watching figure skating or curling or skiing, cheering on our teammates. I'm not going to tell players they can't stay in a hotel. But I think it would be a major mistake if we didn't stay in the athletes' village. We have only one practice before the first game, so we need to build unity quickly. It's imperative that our guys latch on to the whole Olympic thing. We're not just going there to play in a tournament. It's being part of something bigger. With hockey, we went from thinking we would never lose, to wondering if we can ever win a gold medal again. I'm here because I really believe that we can win."

Overbites

"Didn't we grow up eating Campbell's soup? *M'm! M'm! Good!*"

—ABC television journalist **Barbara Walters** takes part in a paid ad promotion on *The View*, a show she produces. Campbell Soup Co. was assured the show's hosts would weave a soup message into regular on-air chats.

"We're willing to plug shamelessly, but we have limits. The integrity of the show has to be maintained."

—Walters' co-executive producer, **Bill Geddie**, discusses the arrangement.

"They are in a conflict of interest because [police officers] are probably getting free doughnuts. They do it a lot."

—**Ernest Guiste**, lawyer for **Charlene Walsh**, 23, of Toronto, discusses his client's $23-million lawsuit against the Toronto Police Service, two officers, and Tim Hortons doughnuts. She was fired by Tim Hortons after being accused of diverting money from the cash register into her tip cup. She alleges the police are not impartial.

"I don't think most police officers eat doughnuts. It's the coffee, it's the caffeine, and coffee shops are open 24 hours."

—Toronto Const. **Jack Ritchie** explains why cops frequent doughnut shops.

Only in Quebec, you say? Pity.

Companies often market products differently to Quebecers than they do to an English-Canadian audience. But **Richard Coulombe** insists politics has nothing to do with the stinking disparity between French and English labels on mineral water sold by Alex Coulombe Ltée. The Ste-Foy, Que., company sells the Montellier brand of mineral water. On the French side of the label, a yellow triangle says "*Puisée au Québec*," meaning the water was drawn from a source in the province. On the reverse side in English, the same spot proclaims "Purely Canadian." The company created the labels a few years ago to respond to occasional demand from the United States, explains Coulombe, the vice-president of marketing and sales. He says, with a laugh, that they used "Purely Canadian" because "there are many people in the States who don't even know where Quebec is." Although, he adds, "the more they talk about us in newspapers about politics, the more they know where we are." But 95 per cent of company sales are in Quebec—and when it comes to appealing to those consumers, their home is where the heart is.



Water: a sales ploy

Brenda Branswell



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To Lease or Not to Lease?

With leasing increasing in popularity each year, how do you know if it is for you? Ask yourself the question: Do I want to own the car at the end of a finance term? If your answer is yes, then traditional loan financing is probably for you. If you answered no, you should consider the pros and cons of leasing and consult your financial adviser to determine if leasing is your best option.

*Keep in mind, whether you lease or finance, you are responsible for all damage repairs and for manufacturer's scheduled maintenance.

Leasing Offers:

- Lower monthly payments or affords a car with more options because a smaller portion of the vehicle is financed
- Fixed monthly car expense (assuming a new car lease with a term equal to the manufacturer's warranty)
- Vehicle depreciation is less of a concern because you return the unit at the end of the term and lease another new car.
- Less capital is required
- Taxes are paid monthly

Leasing Concerns:

- When you should guarantee the residual or end value of the vehicle. It is difficult to predict what the market value of that vehicle will be, so do not be on the hook for it.
- Leasing costs more than a loan if you plan to purchase the vehicle.
- If you need to exit from a lease before term completion, your options are to transfer the lease to another person or buy out the lease.
- For high mileage drivers, leasing may not be the most cost effective option.

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PASSAGES



Suspended: Brad May, 28, of the Phoenix Coyotes, will sit out the next 20 games after swinging his stick and hitting Steve Heinze, 30, of the Columbus Blue Jackets. Heinze, who suffered a 17-stitch gash and a broken nose, accepted May's apology after the game. May, a first-time offender who had never been called before the NHL discipline committee, received the stiff sentence as a result of the league's new get-tough policy on violence. May's stick foul was the first in the wake of the **Marty McSorley-Donald Brashear** incident on Feb. 21. Coincidentally, last month during McSorley's court case, Heinze was prepared to testify on his behalf.

Died: Former Manitoba cabinet minister **Harry Harapiak** left the family farm in Cowan, Man., at the age of 20 to work as a miner in Sudbury, Ont. After being told he was too young and too small, he gained weight by eating bananas and used his older brother's identification to get the job. Later, he returned to farming and then worked for the Canadian National Railway Co. He was first elected to the legislature in 1981 and served as minister of northern affairs in **Howard Pawley's** NDP government. Harapiak's brother, **Leonard**, also served in that cabinet and his sister, **Rosann**, is the province's current agriculture minister. Harapiak died at 62 in Winnipeg, of heart-related problems.

Resigned: After three years as president and chief executive officer of Athletics Canada, track and field's governing body, **John Thresher** stepped down. Thresher, 60, who was asked by the Athletics Canada board to resign, said the decision was not based on Canada's disappointing performance at the Sydney Olympic Games. Instead, Thresher, whose administration had been criticized by sprinter **Donovan Bailey**, spoke of the problems in funding amateur sports. "We worship at the altar of professional sport," he said, blaming the media for what he deemed a bias towards professional athletes. A replacement has yet to be named.

Died: **Edoardo Agnelli**, son of the honorary chairman of the Fiat automobile empire and member of one of the world's richest families, was found dead at the foot of the Fossano viaduct near Turin, Italy—a favourite spot for suicide attempts. Agnelli, 46, never worked for the family firm; rather, he studied eastern religions at Princeton University and travelled. According to **Alan Friedman**, a biographer of the Agnelli family, Edoardo "led a troubled, introspective life." Police have yet to determine the cause of death, although they believe it was a suicide.

Fined: **Tiger Woods**, 24, was hit with a $100,000 fine by the Screen Actors Guild for a Buick commercial he shot in Kitchener, Ont., during a six-month strike. Woods's punishment was light considering he could have had his SAG membership revoked. And the union suspended $50,000 of the fine provided Woods doesn't cross future strike picket lines.

Died: One of the standard-bearers of the U.S. civil rights movement, **Hosea Williams**, 74, was the chief organizer of Dr. **Martin Luther King's** marches. A native of Georgia, he fought in the Second World War. After his return, he was beaten for trying to drink at a whites-only water fountain—an incident that, he later recalled, made him think he'd "fought on the wrong side." Williams died of cancer in Atlanta.

Acquitted: **Michael Abram**, the 34-year-old Liverpool native who attacked ex-Beatle **George Harrison** and his wife, **Olivia**, was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Harrison suffered 10 stab wounds after Abram broke into his Henley-on-Thames home west of London last December and assaulted him. Abram told the court he believed he was on a mission from God and that Harrison was an "alien from hell." Abram will remain at a medium-secure clinic until a mental-health board decides he can be released.



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Anthony Wilson-Smith

Who stands for something?

Back in the 1960s, an older friend of mine decided to run for office in a provincial election. He was a lawyer, young, smart, presentable, well-connected and fluently bilingual at a time when that was a rarity for Quebec Anglos. All those qualities seemed to portend a great future in politics—if only he and his party could deliver wins. His candidacy was announced at a news conference that was well attended by the media. There was one problem: the candidate was so nervous that when a reporter kicked off the event by asking him a question, he stared back blankly for a few seconds—and then fainted dead away. That effectively doomed his campaign, and, in the election, his party also went down to defeat.

So begin, and end, political careers sometimes, brought to a screeching halt by a bad choice in election timing, or the screaming meemies. Although my friend stayed active in politics, he never attained the prestige and position that likely would have been his if he and his party had won that year. The point is that it's easy to forget how scary—and risky—it is to run for elected office, no matter your age or stage of life. Run when you're in your 20s, like Jean Charest (elected in 1984 at age 26), and eventually people will muse with a bit of a sneer about why you've never held a *real* job. Run in your 30s or 40s, and you give up peak earning years in the private sector. Run later than that, and people treat you as though you're having some form of late-midlife crisis. And all those are the consequences if you *win*. If you lose, you're lucky if you regain some semblance of the life you put on hold many months previously, and *really* lucky if there isn't any leftover campaign debt that you have to assume personally.

Unlike professional sports or other entertainment spectacles, politics is often more rewarding financially to those who sit on the sidelines and heckle than to those who actually take part. People talk a lot about the symbiotic relationship between politicians and journalists—but that obscures the fact that, for the most part, we of the latter group have a far better gig. An experienced journalist at a large newspaper, TV network or magazine generally earns more money than the average backbencher—and, like it or not, our opinions often carry more weight with their bosses. Governments change, candidates win or lose, but the press gallery is forever.

And so, it seems, is Canadians' general disenchantment with the political process. The reasons aren't just the deadening sense that the Liberals are headed for another majority despite, rather than because of, their leader, or because of the ineptitude of the opposition. An increasing number of people take pride in declaring that they don't intend to vote at all, because they somehow feel excluded from the process and find it irrelevant to their daily lives. You could make the same arguments in favour of skipping regular dental checkups—and, in both cases, people deserve all the bad consequences of their indifference. If you don't vote, you effectively forfeit the right to complain about everything from health care to the price of university tuition to the tax rate to everything else in life that involves government intervention—and that means most things.

All of which is to say that the weak campaigns of the various parties aren't collectively a good enough excuse for not voting, and neither is the facile argument that "all the major parties are the same." There's a party out there to meet everyone's taste, if people just bother to look. For those who want more government intervention, there's the NDP; for those who want less, there's the Alliance. If you like the Liberals and their leader, vote for them; if you like their policies but not the PM, vote for the Tories. If you don't like the country, vote for the Bloc. If you don't like the established parties, vote for the Canadian Action Party, or the Green party, or other less-traditional alternatives.

The other false complaint about politics and politicians is the idea that everyone who isn't a cabinet minister is some lesser form of humanity. Blame Pierre Trudeau for starting that one with his assertion to the effect that members of the Opposition were "nobodies when they got 50 yards away from Parliament Hill." Actually, he got things backwards: lots of MPs from all parties do terrific work in their ridings helping constituents with immigration or job-search problems, or guiding them through the maze of government programs. At home, MPs matter; their importance diminishes only when they show up in Ottawa, where they're told how and when to vote, then otherwise are all but ignored. The paradox is that those MPs who care the most about their constituents seldom make it to cabinet: they're too busy attending to their ridings to do the kind of high-level politicking it takes to get ahead. The committed ones learn to accept their thanks in less-tangible ways.

It should be possible for people to get cross at individual politicians without using that as an excuse to condemn the entire system. Sure, the PM looks mean, crabby and full of himself; Stockwell Day has a big learning curve ahead as a federal leader and it says all you need to know that Joe Clark—*Joe Clark!*—has outshone all the other leaders. But in this campaign, more than a thousand men and women from both big and obscure parties have put their lives, their self-esteem and their future on the line to run as candidates. Agree with them or not, we should appreciate them. At least they understand that it's better to stand for something than to take no stand at all.



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Barbara Amiel

Arabs, in their own words

A lot of readers don't seem to warm to me. My last column on the Middle East ("Peace never had a chance," Oct. 30) occasioned a slightly woebegone e-mail from one of my editors saying rather a lot of people had taken offence. Only one, he wrote, had shown support. Most negative comments were from Muslims or Arabs.

After 23 years as a *Maclean's* columnist, a series of editors has suffered my views and permitted me freedom to voice them within normal boundaries of taste, libel and defamation. Boundaries, incidentally, which are less rigorously observed by some others. Ms. Shahina Siddiqui, co-ordinator of community relations, Manitoba Islamic Association, Winnipeg, wrote to *Maclean's* that I had "demonstrated yet again [my] blatant contempt and seething hatred for the Palestinian and Arab people, in particular, and Muslims in general." Mr. Bahija Réghai of Ottawa felt that *Maclean's* should be reminded that "freedom of expression is not a licence [for me] to promote hatred or dehumanize." I felt like the Grinch who had stolen Christmas—or Ramadan.

It's true I don't know very many Muslims, though just to rub it in I must point out that I shall be spending American Thanksgiving this week as a guest at what promises to be a terrific party in Paris thrown by a very prominent Muslim family together with a number of other people who pray facing Mecca and who actually know my views on the Middle East. Little as I know about Islam, I not only respect it, but probably know more about it than Talmud & Torah.

Meanwhile, I've decided to take Mr. Réghai seriously. "If this is not bigotry and incitement to hatred and racism," he asked, "what is?" I could feel the hot and heavy breathing of a human rights commission at my neck. But he asked a question, let's answer him. What is racism? Herewith, some excerpts from the Muslim and Arabic press, courtesy of translators at the Middle East Media Research Institute in Washington. They will illustrate my original point, that peace in the Middle East is profoundly difficult to achieve given the present climate in the Arab and Muslim worlds. Also, for Canadians who unthinkingly use phrases such as "hate literature," here is a typical sampling of the "moderate" Arab press. I found some of these newspapers in culturally sensitized Toronto—not sealed in cellophane or even on the top shelves.

Al-Akhbar (an official Egyptian government paper), Aug. 9. In an op-ed piece titled the 'Judaisation of America," its editor, Jalal Duweidar, wrote about the selection of Joe Lieberman as the vice-presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket: "The United States is now passing from the stage of indirect Judaisation of America to the stage of direct and open Judaisation. . . . In this decision, Al Gore revealed his ugly face, closing the circle of submission begun by Clinton when he gave all the important strategic positions in his administration to American Jews."

Al-Quds Al-Arabi (a London-based daily), Aug. 14: Lieberman is "the only person who can collect from the Jews the donations needed for Gore's campaign and influence the media, which is controlled by the Jews, in Gore's favour."

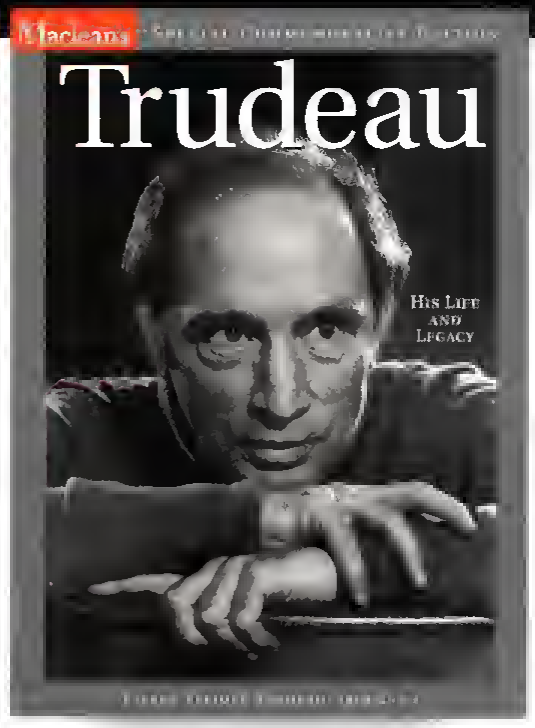
Al-Wafd (an Egyptian opposition newspaper), Aug. 9. Editor Abbas Al-Tarabili writes: "The goal of international Zionism is to rule the world. Therefore, if Gore and Lieberman succeed, the road will be paved for the realization of the Zionist dream . . . then after a longer or shorter period, through 'the Angel of Death' or otherwise, Gore will die or be removed and suddenly America will find itself with his Zionist deputy Lieberman as master of the White House."

Meanwhile in Syria, myths about the Jews appear on a regular basis. In the English language daily *Syria Times*, on Sept. 6, the well-known author Mohammad Daoud wrote: "History has not witnessed a people who have mastered lying, dodgery and mythmaking such as the Israelis," and "Their most famous myth is that of the so-called Holocaust." The Syrian Arab Writers' Association weekly *Al-'Usbu' Al-Adabi* has a dandy list starting with the one about the Israeli HIV-positive girls spreading AIDS deliberately in Egypt. Then there's the Zionist gifts for Arab children—animal-shaped chewing gum that causes sterility.

My own favourite is an op-ed article in *Al-Ahram*, Egypt's leading official paper, which claims that the Talmud forbids Jews to go into holy cities without first eating a matzo made with the blood of Palestinians. "The bestial drive to knead Passover matzos with the blood of non-Jews," wrote widely respected columnist 'Adel Hamooda last Oct. 28, "is confirmed in the records of the Palestinian police where there are many recorded cases of the bodies of Arab children who had disappeared being found torn to pieces without a single drop of blood."

I would never recommend prosecuting Canadian shops that carry Mr. Hamooda's wretched drivel. But those people who think that this is mere rhetoric and that it is just written for effect should stop and ask themselves, to what effect? If *Maclean's* were to run pictures of naked girls to increase its readership, the fact that the editors of *Maclean's* didn't really approve of this would make scant difference in describing the tastes and values of the readers they were catering to. So, go on, give me your best argument, but if this is just heated rhetoric for regional consumption, then send me your best recipes for blood matzos and we'll all march to the ovens together.

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ROGERS MEDIA

Maclean's
What Matters to Canadians



Chrétien in Peterborough, Ont.: absorbing hard political blows

Phil Carpenter/CP

What You Need to Know

A voter's guide to the acrimonious federal campaign

By John Geddes and Julian Beltrame in Ottawa

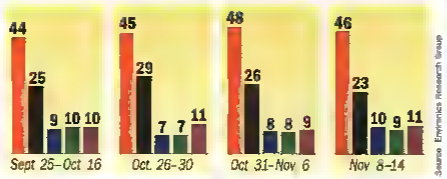
Jean Chrétien has held his own, but this cannot be the campaign he was hoping for when he stood against a backdrop of turning maples on the grounds of Rideau Hall last month to announce his bid for a third mandate from the people. "I enter this campaign taking nothing for granted," he said gravely that sunny day. "I enter it with great humility, but also with convictions and confidence." Four weeks later, the leaves have all fallen, the light is no longer so golden, and the Prime Minister has absorbed more than a campaign's worth of hard blows. He has been accused of caring more about pedophiles than children. He has been charged with abusing his office to funnel a government business loan into his riding. His hold on the loyalty of his own party—among MPs he has given two majorities and is in good shape to deliver another one on Nov. 27—has been increasingly called into question.

Do not expect Stockwell Day, though, to spare a moment of sympathy for his adversary. Day waded into his first national election aiming to capitalize on the energy, youth and wit that had vaulted him over Preston Manning early last summer to grab the Canadian

TRACKING THE PARTIES

Findings are based on a tracking survey using a minimum of 250 interviews each day polling was conducted (latest results Nov. 8-14, collected from a total of 1,835 nightly tracking interviews)

- Liberals
- Canadian Alliance
- Progressive Conservatives
- New Democratic Party
- Bloc Québécois



Source: Environics Research Group

Alliance leadership. Instead, he has been forced onto the defensive over many of the same issues that undermined Manning as leader of the Alliance's predecessor, the Reform party. Day has had to fend off allegations that he has a hidden agenda to scrap universal health care. He has struggled to explain a policy that would force a national referendum on abortion—or any other issue—if an undetermined number of Canadians signed a petition. And, finally, he has had to explain that as a conservative Christian he believes there is at least as much evidence for creationism as there is for Darwin's theory of evolution.



Peter Bregg/Maclean's

Pity the undecided voter trying to peer through the thick haze of acrimony to get a clear view of the combatants. Chris Baker, vice-president of Environics Research Group, says the difficulty in sorting out the substance of the contest from its angry rhetoric may explain why there has been so little movement in popular opinion since the campaign began. Last week, an Environics poll put Liberal support at 46 per cent, almost unchanged from the week before the campaign began. Similarly, the Alliance stood at 23 per cent, a scant two points below where the party stood when the whole thing started. "Of the Liberals there's a perception of arrogance, and of the Alliance a perception of ignorance," said Bill Neville, head of University of Manitoba's political studies department. "Given those perceptions, it has been difficult for either side to make the case for itself."

There are, of course, more than two sides. In Quebec, where the election has its own distinct dynamic, the Bloc Québécois has pulled even with the Liberals at 43 per cent in the latest Environics poll, climbing five points in the province since early November, as the Liberals slipped by the same amount. But the national Conservative and NDP campaigns seem bogged down. Despite a bravura debate performance by Joe Clark, the Tories are mired at 10 per cent, while the New Democrats, at nine per cent, have failed to gain ground on Alexa McDonough's message that only the NDP can safeguard universal health care. Last week, Clark dropped all pretense of aiming to win, appealing instead for voters to choose him over Day to lead the opposition. "If Mr. Chrétien's party gets elected again, and they might," he pleaded, "who do you think would be better to hold them to account on the floor of the House of Commons?"



John Reid/Maclean's

Day with members of his team; McDonough with advisers (opposite): trying to sort out the substance from the rhetoric

Still, the defining choice for many Canadians is between Chrétien and Day. And, perhaps surprisingly, behind the thick smoke of the negative campaign war, both have managed to cobble together substantive platforms. After starting off with a thin policy blueprint, blandly titled A Time for Change, the Alliance fleshed out its tax and spending prescriptions last week by releasing a full review of their costs by outside economists. As for the Liberals, their Red Book III platform pamphlet, while much less hefty than the versions released for the 1993 and 1997 elections, has to be considered in tandem with the much more detailed mini-budget released just before the election call by Finance Minister Paul Martin.

The two sides argue over bottom lines. But taking their claims at face value, here's what is being put in front of voters. The Liberals would ramp up federal spending from $119.7 billion next year to $129.6 billion in the third year of a new mandate. The Alliance would move from a slightly more modest $115.7 billion in spending next year to $123.2 billion three years after forming its first administration. On taxes, over the same period, the Liberals would allow the government's total revenues to rise from $175.2 billion to $187.2, while the Alliance would let the tax haul grow only from $174 billion to $176 billion. Taken together, the tax and spending proposals suggest broad directions. The Liberals propose to let spending and taxes creep up, but only in line with overall economic expansion. The Alliance proposes to restrict both in order to see the size of government decline as a share of a growing economy.

No surprises there—the Alliance wants leaner government, the Liberals like it at about its current heft. These preferences have policy implications more pointed than overall spending and taxation levels. Take the two parties' approaches to economic development. Chrétien spent much of the campaign touring factories supported by federal grants and loans, touting Liberal faith in government as "a force for good." Day vowed that an Alliance government would get out of the free

VOTER TIPS

- **To find out what riding you're in,** go to the Elections Canada Web site at *www.elections.ca* and type in your postal code.
- **If you are not on the voters list** and have not received a voter information card in the mail, get in touch with the returning officer for your riding. Contact numbers are posted on the Elections Canada Web site, or call 1-800-463-6868.
- **If you are going to be away** on voting day you can cast your ballot at an advance poll (dates and places will be indicated on your voter information card). If you cannot vote at an advance poll, contact your local returning officer to register for voting by special ballot. You must do so by 6 p.m. on Nov. 21.

Answers to other questions are available at the Elections Canada Web site.

A VARIED LAND

Diversity is a Canadian hallmark—one also reflected in the country's 301 federal constituencies. Some riding facts.

Most voters: Calgary Centre—83,749
Least voters: Nunavut—17,397

Largest by area: Nunavut—3,117,463 square kilometres
Smallest: Launer-Sainte-Marie (Quebec)—nine square kilometres

Most ethnically homogeneous: Bonavista-Trinity-Conception (Newfoundland)
Least ethnically homogeneous: Edmonton Centre-East

Most residents with a university degree: St. Paul's (Ontario)
Fewest residents with a university degree: Berthier-Montcalm (Quebec)

Highest unemployment: Bonavista-Trinity-Conception
Lowest unemployment: Lisgar-Marquette (Manitoba)

Highest percentage of immigrants: Davenport (Ontario)
Lowest percentage of immigrants: Matapedia-Matane (Quebec)

Largest number of votes ever won in a single riding: 63,049, by Liberal Maurice J. Moreau in York-Scarborough (Ontario) in the 1963 election

Number of federal ridings in Canada's first general election, 1867: 181 (John A. Macdonald's Liberal-Conservative party won a majority of 100 seats)

THE HEALTH DEBATE

In the great debate over two-tier health care, one fact all too often overlooked is that private clinics already exist in a number of Canadian provinces. Some, such as Ontario's 55-year-old Shouldice Hospital Ltd. for hernias, operate within the confines of the Canada Health Act. Others, though, are the object of controversy—and became even more so last week when Prime Minister Jean Chrétien threatened to cut transfer payments to Alberta, Quebec and any other province that allows private, for-profit clinics to charge for necessary services such as magnetic resonance imaging scans to diagnose injury and disease.

Chrétien's threat brought howls of protest—Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe derided the Prime Minister for posturing as a saviour of medicare, while his government's budget cuts helped spawn private clinics. Quebec, for example, has seven private MRI clinics, with at least two more in the works (Alberta has five, while private MRI clinics also exist in British Columbia and Ontario). In Quebec hospitals, patients can wait up to 18 months for an MRI, but in a private clinic, it only takes a few days to get an appointment and results—for a cost of about $600. In the end, Chrétien acknowledged that the federal government bore some responsibility for the health-care crisis, but remained firm in his threat to crack down on provinces that he says contravene the Canada Health Act.



Peter Bregg/Maclean's

The defining choice for many Canadian voters is between Chrétien and Day

market's way, cutting out all "corporate welfare." That would mean the end of regional development agencies, especially the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, which now spends up to $350 million a year. The Alliance's alternative, according to its official briefing book for candidates: "Tax cuts for everyone, not subsidies to the friends of politicians."

There is not much doubt about whose friends the Alliance has in mind. Day is running not so much on his ideological preference for less government as on his specific distaste for the way Chrétien governs. "Anytime somebody accumulates that much power," Day said of Chrétien in one of his most explosive campaign speeches, "we know that it tends to have a corrupting influence on that individual." The Alliance has made much of the millions in federal loans and grants that have flowed into Chrétien's Quebec riding of Saint-Maurice. Chrétien admitted last week that he successfully lobbied the head of the federal Business Development Bank of Canada to lend money to the owner of Auberge Grand-Mère, a Shawinigan hotel of which Chrétien was once part-owner. Day responded by accusing the Prime Minister of "an abuse of power," and went so far as to call on the RCMP to investigate what, "according to the Criminal Code, would be an item of corruption" (Clark also said the Mounties should look into the matter). But the Alliance leader is apparently offended by more than Chrétien's dealings with small-time businessmen in his home town. Day slyly referred in one speech to the "power corporation" within Chrétien's office—a clear allusion to the Prime Minister's close links to Power Corp. The Montreal conglomerate is headed by André Desmarais, Chrétien's son-in-law, and its executive vice-president is John Rae, Chrétien's top campaign adviser.

Day's decision to take a shot at the Power Corp. connection reflects the wide gap between the Liberal and Alliance political cultures. Chrétien, for all his folksiness, has for decades moved in Canadian Establishment circles, from which he draws his loyal coterie of advisers. Day, despite a stint as Alberta's treasurer—a position of no small clout—remains a distrustful, at times disdainful, outsider. So are his closest confidants. In fact, Day grew up largely in Montreal and Ottawa, and attended Ashbury College, the tony private school in Ottawa's leafy Rockcliffe Park neighbourhood. But he got his taste for politics as a champion of private Christian schools in Bentley, Alta., in the early 1980s, before winning a provincial seat in 1986, and then emerging as a star in Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's Tory government.

Proud as Day is of those Alberta roots—both in the evangelical Christian community and the Klein cabinet—they have repeatedly put him on the defensive. First, the Liberals took aim at the Alberta government's controversial Bill 11, which permitted a greater role for private health-care companies in the province. "In Alberta," claimed a hard-hitting Liberal TV ad, "Stockwell Day helped impose a law that opens the door to U.S.-style private health care." Day exploded, demanding the ad be withdrawn. The Liberals kept it on the air. (The party did tinker with it to correct the suggestion that the ad's main message was in fact quoted from an article in *The Globe and Mail*, in reality, the text was written by the Liberal advertising team.) Perhaps even more problematic for Day was a CBC TV documentary, aired last week on *The National*, that explored his Christian conservatism, including his belief in creationism. Day argued that he should not have to explain tenets of his faith, but he did issue a statement confirming that he holds "there is scientific support for both creationism and evolution."

Day has spent too many of his campaign news conferences back on his heels, defending his policies and personal inclinations. But when he gets in front of a crowd—and he has been drawing big ones across Canada—he delivers speeches



Clark: finally dropping all pretense of aiming for victory

Peter Bregg/Maclean's

A CLASH OF CULTURES

The battle between the Liberals and the Canadian Alliance is as much a clash of political cultures as it is of ideologies. While Jean Chrétien and Stockwell Day both lay claim to off-the-beaten-track political roots—the Prime Minister in the pulp and paper towns of Quebec's St-Maurice River Valley and the Alliance leader in the cattle and oil country around Red Deer, Alta.—that's where the similarities end. Consider their educational backgrounds. Day enrolled briefly at the University of Victoria, but dropped out. Chrétien graduated from Laval University's law school, a traditional training ground for Quebec's political class.

The contrast extends to their advisers. Chrétien's have impeccable establishment credentials. His senior campaign strategist is John Rae, son of a diplomat, graduate of prestigious Queen's University and now executive vice-president of Montreal's Power Corporation of Canada. Senior policy adviser Eddie Goldenberg is the son of a prominent Montreal labour lawyer, a graduate of McGill University and a founding partner of Ottawa office of influential law firm Lang Michener.

Day's top campaign strategist is Rod Love, who dropped out of political science studies at the University of Calgary in 1980 to help Ralph Klein, the future Alberta premier, launch his political career by running for mayor of Calgary. And Day's most influential policy adviser is Calgary MP Jason Kenney, who grew up mainly in tiny Wilcox, Sask., where his father ran a Catholic boys school, and went on to study humanities in the United States at the University of San Francisco—a neoconservative hotbed that is a far cry from the usual finishing schools for Canada's political power brokers.

AT THE TOP

How are the leaders of the five main parties expected to fare in their own ridings? Maclean's offers a prognosis.



Jean Chretien
Saint-Maurice, Que.
Expected to win, and generous helpings of Liberal government cash haven't hurt. But the Bloc Québécois's François Marchand has put up a spirited fight—while provincially the BQ has been running neck and neck with the Liberals.



Stockwell Day
Okanagan-Coquihalla, B.C.
No contest. No Liberal or Tory candidate opposed him in his Sept. 11 byelection and Day will probably walk away with this one. They loved the wet suit.



Joe Clark
Calgary Centre, Alta.
High Noon in Stampede City. Clark trailed both the Alliance and Liberal candidates for much of the campaign. But a strong performance in the leaders debate may have given the Tory leader some much-needed momentum.



Alaxa McDonough
Halifax, N.S.
A tough slog, but the NDP leader is expected to keep her seat. Other New Democrats may not be as lucky.



Gilles Duceppe
Laurier-Ste-Marie, Que.
The BQ leader is generally acknowledged to have run a stronger provincial campaign than three years ago. Besides, he won by more than 15,000 votes over the Liberal runner-up in 1997. Need we say more?

TAKING A STAND

What the parties have said about major issues

	HEALTH	TAXES	LAW AND ORDER	SOCIAL PROGRAMS
Liberals	Would increase provincial transfers by $21.1 billion over five years.	Would cut $100 billion over five years.	Would add specific offences against children, such as criminal child neglect, to the Criminal Code.	Would raise the maximum Canada child tax benefit from $2,056 to more than $2,500 by July, 2004
Canadian Alliance	Promises an extra $400 million in its first year—and would negotiate five-year funding pacts with the provinces.	Platform calls for $125 billion to be slashed over five years.	Calls for lifetime supervision of repeat violent or sexual offenders	Intends to provide a $3,000-per-year deduction for each child
Conservatives	Would add an extra $510 million in their first year—and guarantee stable funding after that.	Would cut $56 billion over five years.	Would eliminate conditional sentencing for crimes involving sex or violence.	Would increase the basic personal exemption to $12,000 over the next five years to remove 2.3 million Canadians from the tax rolls.
NDP	Intends to add an extra $18.4 billion over the next five years—funding that would also cover home care and pharmacare.	Would ensure that anyone with income of less than $15,000 pays no federal tax.	Would invest in facilities and programs for high-risk youth	Calls for raising the maximum Canada child tax benefit to $4,200 per year in 2004-2005.
Bloc Québécois	Would index transfer payments to inflation rate—and allow provinces to use the extra cash for their needs	Plans to cut taxes by $73.4 billion over five years for families earning less than $80,000 per year.	Wants to make it an offence to belong to a criminal organization such as a motorcycle gang	Would provide more generous access to Employment Insurance for youth, seasonal workers and women.



Duceppe with Bloc campaign staff: in the province of Quebec, the election has a distinct dynamic

Election 2000

from the balls of his feet, making the best of his agile wit and flair for scorching oratory. Chrétien, by contrast, has not been mounting a vintage run on the hustings. On his better days, he can sometimes deliver the goods, drawing energy from partisan crowds. But too often, he seems unsure of what points to hit hardest. Is this a campaign about the Liberal record? Is it about the future? Is it about keeping Day at bay? Too many Canadians, including many Liberals, suspect it is really about Chrétien scoring a third consecutive majority. "Chrétien is gambling that he can fool enough people to sneak in his personal, petty little thing," Day told *Maclean's*. "Which is a three-peat."

Chrétien's top strategists insist this campaign could have been about much more—if only the haranguing would stop. But the charge that Day's team is solely to blame for the low tone was a hard sell last week. In a furious outburst at a Toronto Liberal rally, Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan slammed the Alliance as a haven for "Holocaust deniers, prominent bigots and racists." Caplan cited Doug Christie, a Victoria lawyer who has represented those who deny the Nazis killed six million Jews during the Second World War, as an Alliance supporter. In fact, Christie was barred from joining the Alliance. "This is a new low in the level of attack ads, personal attacks and scare tactics," Day fumed. "Jean Chrétien, call off your dogs." But the Prime Minister seemed to back Caplan rather than muzzle her. "When you are a party with a clear right-wing agenda," he said, "you end up with the support of that type."

If Chrétien was not in a mood to tone things down, it might be because he carries fresh wounds of his own. Day has taken a hard line late in the campaign trying to paint the Liberals as soft on criminals—sex offenders in particular. He has assailed Chrétien for failing to invoke the so-called notwithstanding clause to overturn a B.C. court decision that found that the federal law banning the possession of child pornography violated the right of free expression. (The federal government appealed the decision and is now waiting for a Supreme Court of Canada ruling.) "I'm glad to see tonight you're putting the rights of pedophiles over the rights of children," Day said in a vitriolic exchange with Chrétien on the issue during the English-language leaders' debate. And Day tried to capitalize on the arrest last week of Peter Whitmore, a convicted child molester who was caught with a 13-year-old boy in a Toronto hotel room after his release last month from jail. It was, he claimed, fresh evidence of a lax Liberal approach to criminal justice.

> Voters may wonder what it has all been about

With the campaign ricocheting from accusations of anti-Semitism one day to charges of corruption the next, it's no wonder the public isn't warming up to either of the two main leaders. The polling firm Compas reports that outside the Alliance hotbeds of British Columbia and Alberta, voters rate Day as less truthful now than they did when the election was called. Chrétien's honesty rating has also slipped during the campaign. Both leaders were also rated in the survey as more arrogant than they were at the campaign's outset.

Such findings may be more worrisome for Day than for Chrétien. Conventional wisdom in Canadian politics is that incumbent leaders who start high in the polls must expect to slide during campaigns. Their challengers, though, are supposed to grow in stature as more voters get to know them. But Day appears to have succeeded only in solidifying his base—not broadening his appeal. "The quarter of the electorate that supports the Alliance is now rock solid—diamond solid," says Compas president Conrad Winn. "But everyone else is more suspicious."

Wary as many voters may be of Day, there's no sign that they are feeling renewed enthusiasm for Chrétien. The sheer immobility of the polling numbers amazes Environics' pollster Baker. "This is one of the weirdest elections I've ever seen." Chrétien, though, has seen just about everything before: this is his 12th run for federal office. He knows that if this campaign holds steady, he will get his majority on Nov. 27—perhaps paving the way for a graceful resignation from office midway through a new mandate, as he hinted last week. Day can read the polls, too. For him, a holding pattern this week means being relegated to clinging to the western strongholds he was elected to push the Alliance beyond. It means no breakthrough—or not much of one—in Ontario. That sets the stage for a final week of Campaign 2000 that may have its surprises, but is likely to follow a predictable pattern. Day must run hard and loud. Chrétien will stay careful and quiet. Many voters may look on and wonder what it has all been about.

to have your say on the election
www.macleans.ca



On the Issues
Mary Janigan

A Shifting Relationship

There was never much doubt about the kind of country Sir John A. Macdonald wanted. Appalled by the bloodshed of the U.S. Civil War, he tried to craft a constitution that would allow Ottawa to enforce strict control over errant provinces. His scheme was doomed to failure: the nation's regional and religious differences were too deep. The 1867 Constitution—and all future constitutional acts—established a precarious and ever-shifting balance between competing visions of the relationship between Ottawa and the provinces. Are they partners? Is there a superior? Should there be strict separation between areas of jurisdiction—or should Ottawa be free to use its spending power in areas of provincial responsibility?

> The parties differ on the nature of the federation

A century and a third later, the federal parties are still struggling with that seemingly eternal debate. The bitter conflict about health policy is really a dispute over how each party views Ottawa's role. The Canadian Alliance would disentangle Ottawa from areas of exclusive provincial responsibility such as education—although it would support the principles of the Canada Health Act. And it would transfer tax points so provinces could pay for the delivery of those services. National standards would be set jointly, by both levels of government. The Liberals, in contrast, would reserve the right to spend in areas of provincial responsibility. The central government would set the standards in health care—and enforce the financial penalties.

Those divergent approaches are complicated by the fact that the world has changed so much since Confederation. Then, the central government took the big-ticket responsibilities like defence—and left piddling matters like hospitals to the provinces. Today, most provincial areas of jurisdiction, such as health care, mean far more to the average voter than foreign policy. The provinces have also become fiscal powerhouses. As the Canadian Tax Foundation notes, the combined spending of the 10 provinces in 1999 was 14.8 per cent *larger* than Ottawa's spending of $172.5 billion. (In 1965, provincial spending was almost 29 per cent *less* than Ottawa's $8.5-billion budget.) Ottawa may retain its right to spend in areas of provincial jurisdiction, which it exercised in 1998 when it unilaterally devised the $2.5-billion Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. But it was eventually forced to consult with the provinces—to ensure that those scholarships dovetailed with provincial grant programs.

Most important, Ottawa's clout waned during the 1990s because it cut back transfers: cash transfers to Newfoundland may equal about 35 per cent of provincial revenues, but they represent a mere seven per cent in Alberta. As Ottawa now increases funding, does it have the right to reassert its views? Or have the provinces earned the right to scorn its interference?

For the voters, there is a clear choice. Do they want the government with the responsibility to deliver the service to set the standards and raise most of the funds? Or are they more comfortable with Ottawa's role as the champion and enforcer of cross-Canada standards—and distributor of much of the funding? "The Alliance wants a decentralized federation in which one jurisdiction does not meddle in the other very much," notes University of Toronto political scientist David Cameron. "The Liberals would be inclined to think the way the system has worked has not been all that bad." The irony is that the gulf is as deep as the divide of 1867.



Neil Chenier/Telegram Staff

The former premier: some local anger over his defection

Election 2000

Captain Canada Battles at Home

By John DeMont

Brian Tobin tried to stay on-message during last week's Bonavista-Trinity-Conception all-candidates debate. But his campaign drumbeat—that the riding needs to be represented by a government cabinet minister rather than a powerless member of the opposition—was sometimes lost in the din. Opponents tore into Tobin for sitting in the federal Liberal cabinet as it oversaw the mid-1990s spending cutbacks that devastated the area. They hammered him for failing to forge the big energy deals he promised as premier of Newfoundland. Then they gang-tackled him for breaking his vow to stay as premier for a full four-year term—by running federally less than two years after his Liberals won a second provincial mandate in February, 1999. Throughout, Tobin counterpunched, at one point arguing that the Canadian Alliance party had "scared me out of the premier's chair and back into federal politics." But the line was greeted by collective groans in the audience. And when the debate ended, the ex-premier, looking testy, shook hands with his other opponents, but appeared to ignore Conservative candidate Jim Morgan, his loudest critic throughout the 90-minute event.

It will take more than a few well-placed barbs to bring down the Liberals' star in the East. With some polls last week showing the Grits with more than 50-per-cent support in Atlantic Canada, the party's internal polling gives Tobin, who was appointed federal minister of industry just before the October election call, a 39-percentage-point lead over Morgan. So confident is the front-runner that he has been spending up to three days a week outside his riding, campaigning for Liberal candidates in hotly contested seats—mostly in Atlantic Canada. But last week, Tobin, who earned the nickname "Captain Canada" for his 1995 fight against foreign overfishing, may have finally realized he has a fight on his hands at home. "Tobin's riding," says Stephen Tomblin, a political science professor at Memorial University in St John's, "could surprise people."

Earlier this month, Tobin's campaign seemed to hit a bump when Newfoundland Energy Minister Paul Dicks revealed that a much-ballyhooed deal with Quebec to develop a $12-billion hydroelectric project on the Lower Churchill River in Labrador had collapsed eight months ago—without a word from the provincial government. Tobin managed to limit the damage, but other criticisms have dogged him throughout the race, including allegations that he stayed on as premier just long enough—20 months—to lock in a provincial pension to go with his $52,000-a-year pension for his previous 16 years in the House of Commons. The Grit strongman, who is not eligible for his provincial benefits until 2004 and saw his federal pension end the moment he rejoined the federal cabinet, dismisses those allegations as partisan mischief.

But there is some local anger over his decision to return to federal politics. Carl Clouter, a 56-year-old pilot from Eastport, Nfld., is so upset about the premier jumping ship he has been buying air time during the campaign urging voters not to support the Liberals. "Tobin reneged," says the longtime Grit. "Now he wants the very people he let down to endorse him." More than that, Liberal strategists have been counting on Tobin to help paint the region red again. The Grits, who lost big in Atlantic Canada in 1997, are confident they can regain some ground. Last week, Tobin was in New Brunswick; this week, he heads for Cape Breton, where some Liberals hope a little campaigning from one of their brighter stars will put more of their candidates over the top. Back in Bonavista-Trinity-Conception, his opponents are just as happy to see him hit the campaign trail—but for a different reason. ■

Brian Tobin fights for Atlantic Canada—and his own riding





The incumbents in two diverse ridings face tough battles

Running Hard to Stand Fast

Throughout the election campaign, Maclean's *is sampling voter opinion in five high-stakes ridings across Canada—Vancouver Centre, Calgary Centre, Markham in Ontario, Laval East in Quebec and Halifax (page 30). Maclean's correspondents are also profiling each of the five ridings, including two this week. First, Vancouver Bureau Chief Ken MacQueen takes a look at Vancouver Centre, currently held by Liberal cabinet minister Hedy Fry. Next, Associate Editor Susan McClelland visits Markham, where the Canadian Alliance gained an Ontario toehold with the Sept. 7 defection of Tory MP Jim Jones*

They were, if not the youngest voters in the room, certainly the youngest dot-com millionaires in attendance. As Vancouver Centre MP Hedy Fry worked the crowd at a campaign party, Rahim Fazal, 18, and his friend and business partner, Husein Kaba, 19, watched the politicking with bemused detachment. They were invited, they knew, to have their wallets picked, and to illustrate a point. Liberals are hip to the future. In June, the teens sold their Web site, MailBC.com, for $2.4 million—not bad for an enterprise squeezed between high-school classes. Fry, running hard for a third term in a notoriously fickle riding, cited them as the kind of "silicon alley" success that happens in a Liberal Canada. The young men smiled and returned to quietly discussing their latest project: a move to the United States.

Fry, a doctor and past-president of the B.C. Medical Association, has made the defence of accessible health care a centrepiece of her campaign, but it is a calculated risk. In Vancouver Centre, as elsewhere, medicare is showing its age. When Canadian Alliance candidate John Mortimer door-knocks for votes in the forest of highrises, or trolls the coffee shops, gay bars and seniors' homes near the fringes of Stanley Park and the shore of English Bay, health care is indeed top of mind. People are appalled by the recent case of 47-year-old Sharon Singh, who could have had a life-saving liver transplant—except she was sent back home to Sooke, B.C., because there were no intensive-care beds available in Vancouver Hospital. (The liver was shipped to Alberta. Singh is still waiting.) Many are quick to add their own health-care horror stories, says Mortimer, co-founder of an Internet company offering advice on union drives and decertifications.

Conservative candidate Lee Johnson, a 27-year-old high-tech entrepreneur and former commercial pilot, attacks Fry's record at the riding level. He calls her "absent, ineffective and lazy." In the flamboyant fashion that typifies the riding, Green party candidate Jamie Lee Hamilton, who once worked Vancouver streets as a transgendered prostitute, likens her race against Fry as "the battle of the two divas." In all, 10 candidates are chasing a riding that for decades has seesawed between Liberal and Conservative and flirted with the NDP.

Fazal won't say whom he will support on Nov. 27, in his first, and perhaps last, vote in a Canadian election. In mid-December, he and Kaba fly to San Diego to find a home for their new venture, an "interactive e-commerce community."

Jones (left) greeting Markham commuters: hopes that the Alliance can keep its Ontario toehold

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Centre



POPULATION	116,080
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP	86.2%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME	$44,786
MOTHER TONGUE	
English	73%
Other	24.1%
French	2.8%
RELIGION	
No affiliation	36.3%
Protestant	35%
Catholic	20.1%
Other	8.6%
1997 ELECTION RESULTS	
Hedy Fry (Lib.)	40.8%
Richard Fairbridge (Ref.)	22.6%
Bill Siksay (NDP)	20.9%
Victoria Minnes (PC)	9.3%
Paul Alexander (Green)	3%
Joseph Roberts (Ind.)	1.4%
Connie Fogal (Cdn. Action)	1%
John Cowhig (Nat. Law)	0.4%
John Clarke (no affiliation)	0.2%
Joseph Thenault (Marx.-Len.)	0.2%
Elvis Flostrand (no affiliation)	0.2%
VOTER TURNOUT	64.7%

ONTARIO

Markham



POPULATION	116,460
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP	95.1%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME	$75,770
MOTHER TONGUE	
English	53.8%
Other	45.4%
French	0.8%
RELIGION	
Protestant	34.6%
Catholic	30.7%
Other	18%
No affiliation	16.6%
1997 ELECTION RESULTS	
Jim Jones (PC)	44.7%
Gobindei Randhawa (Lib.)	36.2%
John Paloc (Ref.)	10.8%
Jag Bhaduria (Ind.)	3.5%
Shanu Geunt (NDP)	3.2%
Stephen Porter (Nat. Law)	0.6%
Jeff Baulch (Cdn. Action)	0.5%
VOTER TURNOUT	67.5%

Sources: Statistics Canada; Elections Canada

He cites the reasons for leaving: high taxes, red tape, a lagging commitment to high tech. Liberal tax cuts are too little, too late. "In this industry, there's not time to sit and wait," says Fazal, who is voting with his feet.

It is 8 a.m. and Canadian Alliance candidate Jim Jones takes a break from canvassing outdoors to warm up inside the Unionville GO Transit station. Jones has been at the location in the heart of the Markham, Ont., riding since 6 a.m. But what started off as an unusually mild November morning has turned rainy and cold. Jones won't call it quits, though. In a three-hour time span, about 600 Markham residents pass through the station on their 30-km commute south to jobs in downtown Toronto. Liberal candidate John McCallum has already been at the station once and plans on coming back. And Conservative hopeful David Scrymgeour is on the train platform chatting amiably with voters.

Jones wants to be highly visible, since this is an Ontario riding the Alliance has a chance of winning. After all, Jones is the incumbent. But in 1997, he won as a Tory, giving the Conservatives their only Ontario seat. When the 57-year-old announced in July he wanted to run for both the Alliance and PC parties, Joe Clark turfed him from the Conservative caucus. Stockwell Day then welcomed him into the Alliance fold. Jones said his goal was to end the vote splitting between the two parties. Some voters, however, like 49-year-old small-business owner Keith Thurgood, feel Jones owes more of an explanation. "It seems he's an opportunist," says Thurgood. "He goes to whatever party he thinks he can win with."

The Alliance *has* gained support in Markham. But whether this has to do with Jones or the makeup of the riding itself is debatable. Markham has a large number of wealthy families willing to support parties that espouse traditional values and promise lower taxes. The riding is in the 905 area-code district that helped return Ontario Premier Mike Harris to power in 1999. And it is home to the headquarters of several Fortune 500 companies, including IBM Canada and Apple Canada.

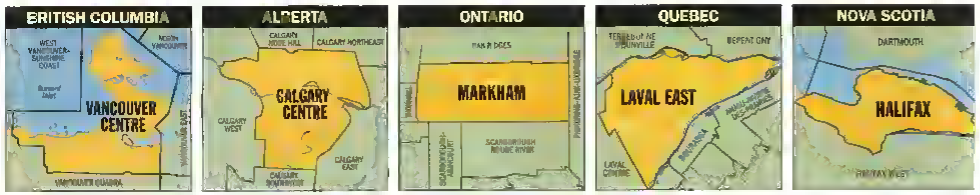
Markham's electoral history, however, is littered with Liberal victories. The riding has a growing multicultural community, which traditionally supports the Liberals. Not surprisingly, McCallum's campaign has focused on the multiracial vote. But he faces other obstacles. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien handpicked the political neophyte even though the Liberal candidate in 1997, bus driver Gobindei Randhawa, wanted to run again. McCallum, 50, who took a leave from his position as chief economist for the Royal Bank of Canada, says he got involved because of flaws in the Alliance tax plan. But as many have pointed out, he lives 50 km away in Oakville, not Markham. "He has no history of the area and so he wouldn't be able to serve the man on the street," says 59-year-old management consultant George Edwards.



Wayne Stanley for Maclean's

Fry campaigning in Vancouver: a calculated risk

As for Scrymgeour, an energetic 43-year-old owner of companies specializing in start-ups and acquisitions, a key battle is keeping the estimated 20,000 Conservative voters in the riding from switching to the Alliance. That may be easier said than done. "Joe Clark is weak and not well-liked," says Susan Chevalier, 49, a small-business owner, who describes herself as a "big-C Conservative." So how will she vote? At the start of the campaign, she described Day as "an unknown." Since then, however, he has impressed her enough that Chevalier now says she will vote for Jones. Just what the Alliance is counting on.



Election 2000

Wanted: High-mindedness

What is your reaction to negative or attack ads?

Early in the Nov. 27 election campaign, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien recalled that his mother once told him: "When you throw mud, you lose ground." The respondents in the informal *Maclean's* survey largely agree. Only a few shared the opinion of George Edwards, 59, an Aurora, Ont.-based management consultant, who said some specific ads might be acceptable. "If they attack the known facts, especially policies, performance or lack of, then I am in favour of them," he said. But he quickly added he found it "disgusting" when such ads attack a person.

That feeling of dismay over attack ads was near universal. "They appeal to people's worst instincts," said 48-year-old Halifax lawyer Gus Richardson. Added Arlayna Alcock, 31, an English-as-a-second-language teacher in Calgary: "They make me uncomfortable—I think they're mean and unnecessary."



Rouleau: minority-government paralysis

Do you pay attention to/give much credence to polls during the campaign?

Most of those questioned claimed they paid no attention to how politicians were supposedly faring during the campaign. Marlene Lines, 49, an insurance adjuster from Markham, Ont., who will begin teaching statistics at nearby York University in January, said she ignores polls because her background has made her aware of their potential pitfalls. "I know how things can be manipulated," Lines said. "You just don't know how the samples were taken." Bookkeeper Louise Bussières, 40, of Laval, Que., agreed. "Polls," she said, "are not always right and we always have surprises at the last minute."

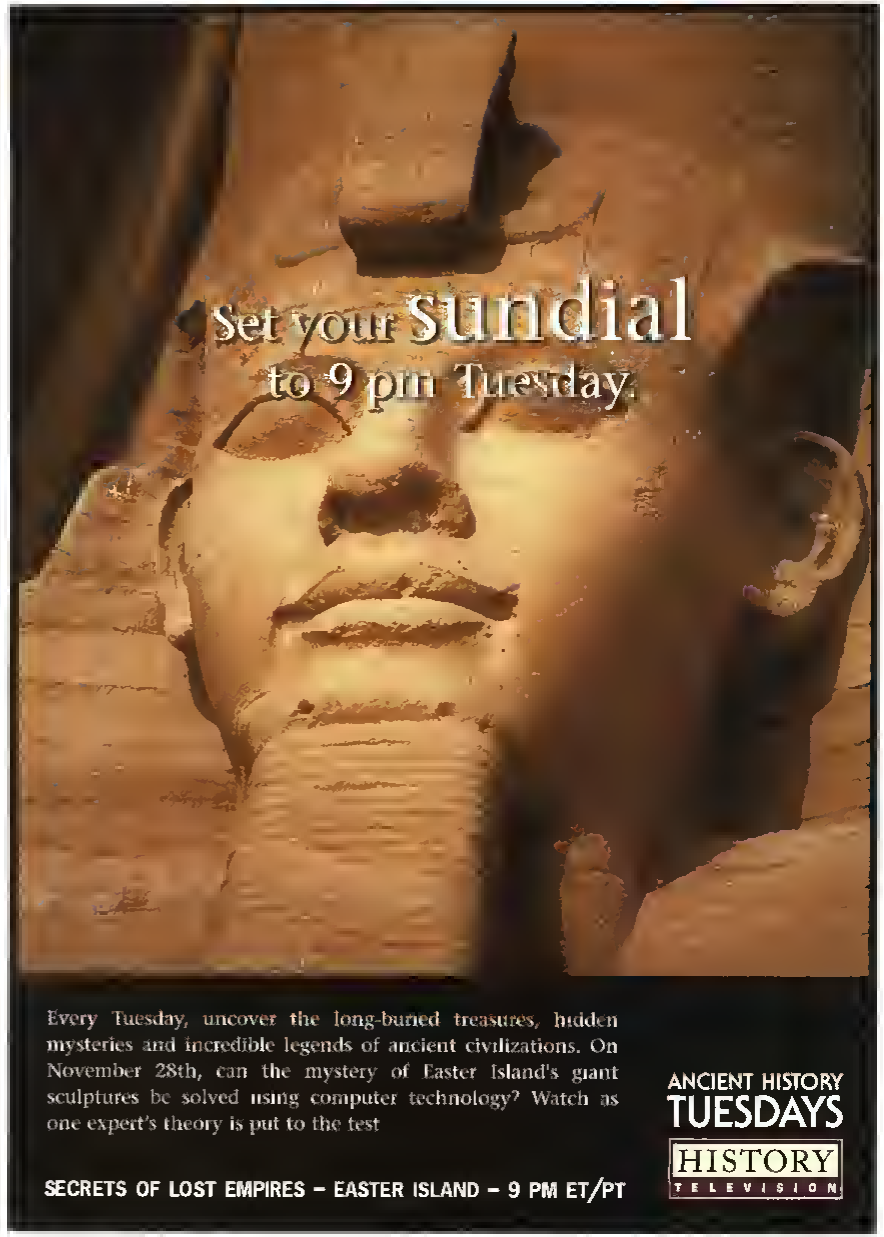
A sizable minority, however, said polls offer a useful service. "Political parties do them all the time and it becomes part of their information," said Calgary freelance writer Brian Burton. "The public should have the same information so that they can do things like vote strategically." But the chance of affecting an outcome means limitations should be placed on polls, argued Luba Horvath, 50, a Vancouver stay-at-home mother of three. "I don't think they should be done prior to elections, say in the last week or two," she added. Horvath cited the example of NDP Leader Alexa McDonough, who might be hurt by low poll numbers. "She may be a far better politician than the guy who scored 41 per cent," said Horvath, "yet what if people vote according to the numbers they see?"

Other poll devotees nonetheless suggested popular opinion ultimately means little to them. "I listen," said Sandra Starratt, 42, a Halifax high-school French teacher, "but it would never influence how I vote."

How would you feel if this campaign were to result in a minority government?

Canada has had six minority governments since 1957. How respondents viewed the spectre of another depended upon their view of that history. "I don't think a minority government has ever worked in Canada," said Yves Rouleau, 63, a retired engineer in Laval. "It paralyzes the government." Keith Thirgood, 49, co-owner of a Markham marketing consultation and design firm, would be happy. "My favourite governments were minority governments," he said, referring to Lester Pearson's Liberal minorities in 1963 and 1965. "The governments had less chance to become arrogant because they relied upon the assistance of smaller parties." Many in the five ridings agreed that curbing arrogance is a welcome byproduct of electing a minority government. But some, like statistician Lines, noted the downside: "We would probably end up having another election too soon."

Barbara Wickens *with John DeMont in Halifax, Brenda Branswell in Laval, Susan McClelland in Markham, Brian Bergman in Calgary and Ken MacQueen in Vancouver*



HistoryTelevision.ca

Notes from the Edge

Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith

ANALYSIS

The pre-election post-mortem

The election may not be over yet—but the post-mortems have begun. The Liberals are thanking their stars that, despite **Jean Chrétien's** performance on the hustings, many voters now appear to think even less highly of **Stockwell Day**. In the end, Liberal insiders say, the abortion issue will emerge as the one factor that really broke in their favour. The revelation that the Alliance would hold binding referendums on such deeply divisive social issues as abortion—coupled with Day's statement of unqualified personal opposition to abortion in the Nov. 9 leaders' debate—distressed many voters, who concluded that Day did not share their opinions and their values.

Senior Liberals believe they will snare the majority of Quebec's 75 seats. They also think they can retain their two seats in Edmonton—with **David Kilgour** and Justice Minister **Anne McLellan** squeaking to victory. But former senator **Bernard Boudreau** will likely lose to the NDP in Nova Scotia—and the Alliance may capture a handful of rural and suburban Ontario seats.

Even if Chrétien maintains his majority, many Liberals will remain unmoved. They assert that Chrétien won't have won the election: the Alliance will have lost it. Day didn't stick to his message—no matter how much his handlers pleaded with him. His musing about the legitimacy of creationist theories last week seemed only to deepen voter mistrust. No single strategist could impose rigid control on the Alliance campaign from start to finish. And Day himself insisted on being part of many strategy discussions, even vetting ad copy. "It's management by committee," sighed an insider.



McLellan: a survivor—perhaps

But Chrétien and his advisers also stumbled. No one in the PM's inner circle replied to a quiet signal from former Winnipeg MP **David Walker** that he would be willing to run in the riding vacated by former cabinet minister **Lloyd Axworthy**. Walker remains popular in Winnipeg—and well-respected. But he had a serious liability: he was once parliamentary secretary to Chrétien rival **Paul Martin**.

Still, it *isn't* Martin supporters who have started the current rumblings about leadership. It is voters themselves, who have sounded off about Liberal arrogance on doorsteps across the nation. That is a sentiment that **Joe Clark** is trying to tap in the final week, positioning himself as a middle-of-the-road alternative for people who like Liberal policies, but not the leader. The main hope for the Liberals, said one worried insider, is that "maybe they'll stick with the devil they know." And that about sums up the mood of this election.

Mary Janigan



Follow the bouncing Joe

First, the good news for **Joe Clark**: the bounce he received after his winning performance in the Nov. 8 and 9 leaders' debates continues, as more people perceive him as the best person for prime minister. Now, the bad news: that perception isn't doing much for his party's overall support. Polls conducted by the Toronto-based polling firm of Environics Research Group and made available to *Maclean's* indicate that since early November, the Tory leader has marked a seven-point increase among eligible voters who see him as the best person for prime minister. Clark is now in a duel with **Stockwell Day** as Canadians' second choice—after **Jean Chrétien**. Although Chrétien's personal appeal has slipped four points, 32 per cent of respondents make him their first choice, followed by Day, down one point to 19 per cent, and Clark, now at 17 per cent. **Alexa McDonough** fell a point to five per cent, while **Gilles Duceppe** remained stable at five per cent. One in 10 eligible voters rejected all leaders.



Stockwell Day, Creationist, as seen by Aislin

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Brice Scheschuk

They're all losers on the Web



A cornerstone of the Liberal Red Book is that "Canada will be a smart country." And much of that smartness, it seems, will be gained through the use of the Internet. As they make us wonder about our current level of intelligence, the Liberals should practise what they preach. A look at the Web sites of the parties, organizations and candidates participating in the federal election (I am excluding third-party news, commentary and portal sites) gives one an eerie sense of déjà vu—think corporate Web sites in 1996. Remember the days when a company could put up a site with its marketing brochure and be considered Web-savvy?

In visiting the Web sites of the five major parties, one sees a strikingly similar pattern. Give viewers a glimpse of the party propaganda, provide a few snippets of positive news, maybe bash an opponent and focus on the leader. I couldn't even find out how to contact my local Liberal candidate on the official Liberal party site (they later added his phone number, but no link to his Web site).

What about the smaller contenders? A quick look at the six other registered parties' Web sites provides a refreshing contrast. Operating with smaller (if any) budgets and very busy volunteers, these sites provide similar information to the majors and often go a step further. Take the nationalist Canadian Action Party, which has a message board with discussions by candidates on how the campaign is progressing. Diana Jewell, the candidate for North Vancouver, describes how she found one of her campaign signs "burning away like a Roman candle." Almost allows one to sympathize with the vagaries and complications of campaign life.

Can the Internet be used to enhance a campaign? Al Gore, probably the most technologically astute party leader in North America, developed a campaign site (*www.algore2000.com*) that offers a glimpse into the future. It includes interactivity through a town hall section, streaming video and audio, instant messaging, a kid's section, wireless updates for personal digital assistants (such as Palms), and even the ability to suggest changes to the open source code of the site. Gore's campaign has effectively integrated new technologies with the demands of politics. When you look at his site you can't help but think, "This guy is in touch with the Web." Did it win him any votes? Difficult to say, but his Internet strategy definitely has appeal to the growing base of young people being weaned on the Web. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for any Canadian parties.

Brice Scheschuk is a chartered accountant and a Toronto-based executive at an Internet financial-services company.

Another major opportunity afforded by the Net is the potential to build lifelong relationships with the electorate. Gore is collecting e-mail addresses, drawing up "Internet Team" volunteer profiles and building GoreNet for young Americans—powerful communication channels that personalize politics in a way that wasn't available before. Canadian parties are missing the majority of these stay-in-touch tools that many businesses have been using for years.

We can't forget about the candidates. Among those individual politicians who have Web sites, it is extremely challenging to find an offering that is not a poorly designed rehash of the annoying marketing propaganda that appears in our mailboxes each election. After sifting through dozens of candidate sites, you are guaranteed to get tired of reading generic introductory letters and sterile, repetitive information. I did not like a single candidate Web site among the 100 or so that I looked at.

For a glimpse of the road ahead, it is again useful to look south of the border to the Web site of Jean Elliott Brown (*www.jeanelliottbrown.com*), the Democratic candidate in the just-completed U.S. election for Florida's 16th Congressional District. Brown's Web site features online town hall meetings, streaming media, community forums (message boards), online opponent faxing, a function to construct a candidate comparison, voter surveys, secure credit-card-based fund raising and an icon displaying the latest child gun-death count. Brown is an excellent example of a wired candidate who used the Web as a cost-efficient, integral part of her campaign strategy rather than an outmoded brochure.

Did it work for her? In a word, no. Brown lost to the incumbent in her district. All the accolades, endorsements and publicity her Web site received did not win the election. Let's be clear: traditional campaign tactics—ability to raise funds, character, track record, experience and so on—still rule the day. But as text, voice, video and other media converge online, the ability to deliver a fresh message to the electorate using technological know-how will become an important factor that politicians will be judged on. The unwired candidate could get left behind.

Internet delivery by Canadian politicians in this election campaign follows the all-too-familiar pattern of general Internet use. Simply put, Americans make better use of the Internet on a bigger scale in more innovative ways. Our politicians should look, and learn. A window of opportunity exists to leap ahead of the competition and emerge as the Web-savvy Canadian political party in 2001 and beyond. The kids are watching.



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A high-stakes audit

Saskatchewan took steps to reorganize the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority after an audit uncovered $811,906 in questionable expenses for former SIGA head Dutch Lerat, who was fired last June. The expenses included trips abroad and a new Cadillac. A further $1.7 million in SIGA revenue remains unaccounted for. The province has not said how it plans to recoup the money.

The Virks go to court

Suman and Manjit Virk, parents of murdered Victoria teen Reena Virk, launched a wrongful-death suit. It names two B.C. government ministries, the local school board, six of their 14-year-old daughter's attackers and all their parents—27 defendants in all. Court documents cited no dollar amount. Manjit Virk said he and his wife "just want accountability." Two teens were convicted of second-degree murder in connection with the November, 1997, slaying.

New Snowbird flying high

For the first time in its 31-year history, Canada's national jet aerobatic team, the Snowbirds, will feature a female pilot. Capt. Maryse Carmichael, 29, of Quebec City first tried out for the air force's elite, nine-member team three years ago. Being picked, she said, is "a dream come true."

The Kovals on the run

According to police sources, fugitive financiers Ron and Loren Koval contacted their daughter Amy in Toronto to say they are safe, although their whereabouts remain unknown. The founders of King's Health Centre, who disappeared on Oct. 18, are wanted in connection with an alleged $100-million fraud.

No English education

A group of francophone parents in Quebec who challenged that province's legislation prohibiting them from sending their children to English schools lost their case in Quebec Superior Court. Justice Maurice Laramee ruled Quebec has a responsibility to protect French.



Daniel Mears/The Detroit News

Terror high above the Detroit River

Four workers painting the Ambassador Bridge between Windsor, Ont., and Detroit endured an hour of horror after their scaffolding collapsed, leaving them hanging from their safety harnesses until fire crews could hoist them up. Three other workers made it to safety, while two who fell into the Detroit River were also rescued. At week's end, the body of a 10th worker had not yet been found.

Walkerton boils on

The Ontario environment ministry may have declared it "safe," but people in Walkerton, Ont., aren't drinking the tap water yet. Dr. Murray McQuigge, the medical officer of health, said he wants to consult with experts and do more tests before lifting the boil-water order he issued on May 22 as the town's *E. coli* crisis erupted. Residents might appreciate the extra caution. In testimony last week at the inquiry into the scandal, one water commission employee said utility manager Stan Koebel initially guessed it was likely food poisoning or a flu epidemic that killed seven and sickened nearly 2,000. Then, Jim Kieffer, the town's longtime public utilities chairman, testified he read three government inspection reports citing *E. coli* contamination in the water—but he didn't know what *E. coli* was. Kieffer said in 10 years at the utility he never read any of the materials outlining provincial rules on water and that he continued drinking town water for two days after the boil-water order was issued. He also said he never discussed water quality with Koebel. "I relied on him to supply us with any major concerns," said Kieffer, who was acclaimed chairman four times since 1992. In last week's Ontario-wide municipal elections, however, he was voted out.

A sentence in the Taber shooting case

The teen charged in the April, 1999, shooting at W. R. Myers High School in Taber, Alta., pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced on Friday to three years in a young offenders centre and seven years community supervision. The youth, who was 14 at the time and whose identity is protected under the Young Offenders Act, killed Jason Lang, 17, and wounded another boy. He has since undergone heart surgery and suffered a stroke. The Taber shooting followed the high-school massacre in Littleton, Colo., in which 13 people died.

Fiasco in Florida

Americans wait for their next president to emerge from a nasty post-election battle

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

The political stars finally seemed to be lining up for George W. Bush late last week. After being declared the winner of the presidential contest in Florida (and thus the entire United States) on election night, and then again by recount at midweek, he was poised to be anointed a third time. The state's top election official was due to certify his victory—giving him an enormous legal and public relations boost in his fight to become the 43rd president of the United States. He even came back from his ranch for the occasion, returning to the Texas governor's mansion in Austin in time to receive expected word that Katherine Harris, Florida's secretary of state, had confirmed once more (and perhaps conclusively) that he had won Florida's crucial 25 electoral votes—and the White House.

So close—yet still so agonizingly far. At the end of a week that saw the strangest struggle for the presidency in modern American history, Bush was denied a final victory again. In a move that caught his team off guard, Florida's Supreme Court ordered Harris not to confirm Bush's triumph in the state until it could hear further legal arguments on Monday—one more instalment in a seemingly endless march through the courts. It wasn't pretty. By the time the state's top court had ruled, the post-election battle had turned into an eye-clawing, nail-scratching spectacle with nothing less than the most powerful office in the world hanging in the balance.



Gore with Lieberman, Bush with Republican vice-presidential candidate Dick Cheney (opposite): the White House was hanging in the balance

Officially, Bush was still ahead. At midweek, Harris announced that a final count from all of Florida's 67 counties put him a scant 300 votes ahead of his rival, Vice-President Al Gore—an almost impossibly thin margin of one two-hundredth of one per cent of the 4.8 million votes cast across the state. With absentee ballots added in by late Friday, his margin widened to 930. If that is finally confirmed, it would give him Florida's electoral votes for a bare Electoral College majority of 271—just enough to claim the White House. But Gore's forces were fighting on another track, trying to persuade the courts that any final tally must include the results of painstaking manual recounts in three heavily Democratic counties in south Florida: Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade. Only if those votes are included, Gore said in Washington, can "the will of the people" be known.



The result is this: last week's plunge into Florida's legal swamps could be just the first messy round in a much longer fight. Even though no court had ruled that the 1.5 million votes in the three counties being slowly tallied by hand will eventually be included in the official result, the Gore camp was clearly hoping that the recount will have a major impact on public opinion. Most experts predict that a manual recount will result in additional votes for Gore that were missed when ballots were counted by machine—perhaps as many as one or two thousand more. If that turns out to be accurate, the vice-president could overcome Bush's narrow lead and claim a decisive moral victory. "Once those votes are counted, they count—maybe not legally, but the fine line between law and politics gets crossed pretty quickly," said Robert Reich, a former labour secretary in President Bill Clinton's cabinet.



Harris: following a narrow interpretation of state law

Another looming factor: declining public patience. Most polls last week showed Americans remarkably willing to let the legal drama in Florida play itself out. But there are limits, and the surveys suggested that voters want a clear result within days, not weeks. That means that whoever seems to be ahead this week, with American Thanksgiving falling on Thursday, Nov. 23, will have a big advantage if he claims that the time has come to reach a conclusion—and finally decide who will succeed Clinton at noon next Jan. 20.

Much was unclear in Florida last week, as multiple teams of lawyers battled through state and federal courts contesting exactly when and how the votes should be counted. Americans who thought they had settled things when they voted on Nov. 7 suddenly became all too familiar with the intricacies of Palm Beach politics—not to mention the vagaries of "chads," the cardboard chips punched out of a papet ballot that, a transfixed nation learned, come in hanging, swinging, pregnant and dimpled varieties. What was all too clear was that the warring parties had passed up any chance for an amicable solution.

For both sides, it is a battle of image and substance. At the top, the candidates struck poses of studied nonchalance—awaiting the verdict of the people. Gore, ensconced in the vice-presidential residence in Washington, made calculated forays out, at one point accompanying his running mate, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and their wives to see the



Clinton in Hanoi: trying to heal wounds

At times the arguments seemed to dissolve into the ridiculous

movie *Men of Honor*. Behind the scenes, though, he masterminded the fight of his life, personally co-ordinating his lieutenants in Florida.

Bush, characteristically, was more removed. He spent the week at his 1,500-acre ranch near Crawford, in central Texas, without even cable TV to keep him abreast of the doings in Florida, serenely reading a new biography of Joe DiMaggio and clearing brush—or so his aides advised. "He's feeling as good as you can feel with such a major question mark hanging over his head," said his senior adviser, Karen Hughes.

On the ground in Florida, however, the two camps were locked in close combat. Democrats dispatched hundreds of operatives from around the country to man offices in disputed areas and make sure that every possible vote was tallied for Gore as manual recounts proceeded. The arguments seemed at times to dissolve into the ridiculous, as when observers from rival parties argued about chads falling from ballots as they were counted by hand. Did the falling chads mean the ballots were tainted, as Republicans maintained? Or did they only show that voters had loosened the chad as they tried to punch their ballot and thus had really intended to vote for a certain candidate, as Democrats argued? Gore's forces seemed to have the upper hand in the battle to shape public opinion, arguing that every vote should be counted, even if that meant spending days examining hundreds of thousands of punch cards. "They're definitely beating us at the spinning game," conceded Shari McCartney, a Republican lawyer working in Broward County. "We're being made out to be the antithesis of the democratic process."

In fact, both sides were walking a delicate line, trying to calculate how long Americans would tolerate the unprecedented spectacle, avoiding any move that might suggest they were putting their interests above those of the country. Republicans impatiently talked of the need for "finality"—in effect, arguing for a quick result and an end to the time-consuming manual recounts that would give Gore a chance to track down more votes in the heavily Democratic counties. Democrats insisted on a "full and fair" recount—code for taking the time to pore over every ballot and (they clearly hoped) discover vital extra votes for the vice-president.

The Republicans benefited mightily from the presence of Harris as the state's top elections officer. A 43-year-old former real estate broker from a wealthy fourth-generation Florida

A man still in the political spotlight

The fight in Florida may be over the next president, but Bill Clinton can still grab the limelight. Last week, in what may well be the last grand gesture of his waning presidency, he landed in Hanoi to turn "a new page in our relations with Vietnam." Clinton became the first U.S. president to visit the Southeast Asian country since Richard Nixon in 1969—six years before the end of the war in which 58,000 Americans, and an estimated three million Vietnamese in both the north and south of the country, died. It was a timely visit: preceded by his wife, newly minted U.S. senator-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton, the President received a warm, at times euphoric welcome from younger Vietnamese as well as those with enduring memories of the bloodshed.

As a young man during the Vietnam War, Clinton stood against the conflict, organizing protests and resisting the draft (he finally drew a number in a draft lottery that made his induction unlikely). As a president, he has tried to heal the wounds of that divisive time in U.S. history. In 1994, he lifted a trade embargo with Vietnam, and last July signed a bilateral trade agreement with the country. But mindful of the deep scars that remain—and the power of U.S. veterans' associations—Clinton has pressed the issue of finding the remains of missing American servicemen (1,992 Americans remain unaccounted for in the Indochina war), and avoided anything resembling an apology for the war.

Few Vietnamese, it seems, expect one. Last week, the overwhelming sentiment on the streets was hope that a normalization of relations with the United States would speed the country's integration into the international community. Certainly, the phalanx of executives from more than 50 U.S. corporations accompanying the President was a sign that Vietnam, a largely untapped market of 78 million people, would be a welcome addition—if its economy were opened up. But there may be hurdles, among them a Vietnamese government wary of too much change and still wedded in part to communist strictures.

Peeter Kopvillem



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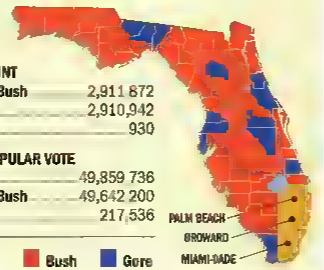
The outlook is for more legal wrangling and name-calling

family, she was an avid supporter of Bush who flew to New Hampshire last winter to campaign door-to-door for him in the Republican primary. As secretary of state, she had to make key decisions in the vote count—such as whether to stick to the letter of the law and certify the result as soon as the deadline for absentee ballots expired on Friday night, or wait for the result of the manual recounts. Harris chose to follow a narrow interpretation of state law and ignore the recount, a decision that led Democrats to attack her as a "commissar" and "lackey of the Bush campaign."

While they fought inch-by-inch in the Florida courts, Democrats did make one dramatic bid for public support. On Wednesday, Gore made a nationally broadcast appeal to Bush to settle their dispute. His proposal: Democrats would drop further legal challenges if Republicans would agree to manual recounts in the three disputed counties—or throughout the whole state if Bush preferred. "We need a resolution that is fair and final," he said. Bush, taken by surprise, rushed back from his ranch and went on television to flatly reject Gore's offer. A manual recount, he said, "would be neither fair nor accurate. It would be arbitrary and chaotic."

COUNTIES IN DISPUTE

The Florida Supreme Court allowed the recount of disputed ballots to continue in Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Broward counties, but is unclear whether the outcome will be added to the official tally



FLORIDA COUNT

George W. Bush	2,911,872
Al Gore	2,910,942
Bush lead	930

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

Al Gore	49,859,736
George W. Bush	49,642,200
Gore lead	217,536

Recounts · Bush · Gore

The outlook is for more of the same: more legal wrangling, more bitter partisan name-calling. Potentially, the most troubling outcome is that both men could claim victory. Bush could point to his lead in the official count, while Gore could add in votes gleaned from the manual recounts. The courts would have to settle that—or Florida's Republican-dominated legislature might step in and decide which man Florida's electors should support. The deadline for that decision: Dec. 18, when electors are to cast their votes in their state capitals.

The other concern hanging over the whole messy week: how badly damaged will the winner be? Americans were as divided as ever when they voted on Nov. 7. Gore won the national popular vote, but only by 217,000 out of 105 million votes cast. Congress is likewise split down the middle, with tiny Republican majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives. The result of the fracas in Florida may be a wounded president whose opponents feel cheated out of the White House.

If there was any agreement, it was that the creaky electoral system badly needs to be fixed. Even outside Florida, ballots were misplaced and miscounted in states with close races, such as Oregon and New Mexico. Critics pounced on the crazy quilt of electronic, mechanical and paper ballots used by thousands of counties to determine the presidency, and promised reforms. "To have the world's greatest democracy facing the possibility of a legitimacy challenge as we go into the 21st century is simply bizarre," said Iowa Republican Congressman Jim Leach. As the two parties wade deeper into the Florida swamp, pressure for change can only build.







Andrew Phillips

A plague of lawyers

Mid-November forecast for Florida: showers of lawyers, followed by strong gusts of wind. You knew things had reached a pretty pass when Alan Dershowitz, late of the O.J. trial and the impeachment spectacle, turned up in Palm Beach representing voters claiming to have been disenfranchised by the county's now-infamous "butterfly ballot." But it didn't stop there—far from it.

The Democrats put out a call for 500 (yes, *five hundred*) lawyers to flood the state. On their team, among many others, Kendall Coffey, who kept the Elian González circus going last spring as lawyer for the boy's Miami relatives (and who resigned as U.S. attorney for South Florida after a report that he had bitten a nude dancer on the arm at a Miami-area strip club called Lipstick). Also Laurence Tribe, a Harvard law professor known for defending dial-a-porn services, plus leading lawyers on *both* sides of the Microsoft antitrust case.

On the George W. Bush team: Theodore Olson, who played a walk-on role in the Monica Lewinsky saga; Thomas Tew, who once represented a fraudulent ostrich-breeding venture in south Florida; and Barry Richard, lawyer for Miami's Hialeah Park racetrack. "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," Shakespeare famously wrote—but in this case it may not be possible. There are just too darn many.



Demonstrators in Palm Beach County: chaos rules

Nobody's seen anything like it, the pundits exclaimed last week as the Bush and Gore forces went at it in Election II—The Recount. But of course they have, and not long ago. This was, in many ways, Son of Impeachment: the legions of lawyers, the "war rooms" full of spinners and strategists, the calculated moves to win the crucial fight for public opinion.

This is an arena where Democrats have shown themselves to be winners. In the impeachment drama of 1998-1999, Republicans focused on the "rule of law." Bill Clinton lied under oath about his Oval Office affair, didn't he? Americans would eventually wake up and turn against him, wouldn't they? Instead, Clinton fought a brilliant, ruthless and successful campaign to paint his enemies as obsessional haters—and they got clobbered at the polls.

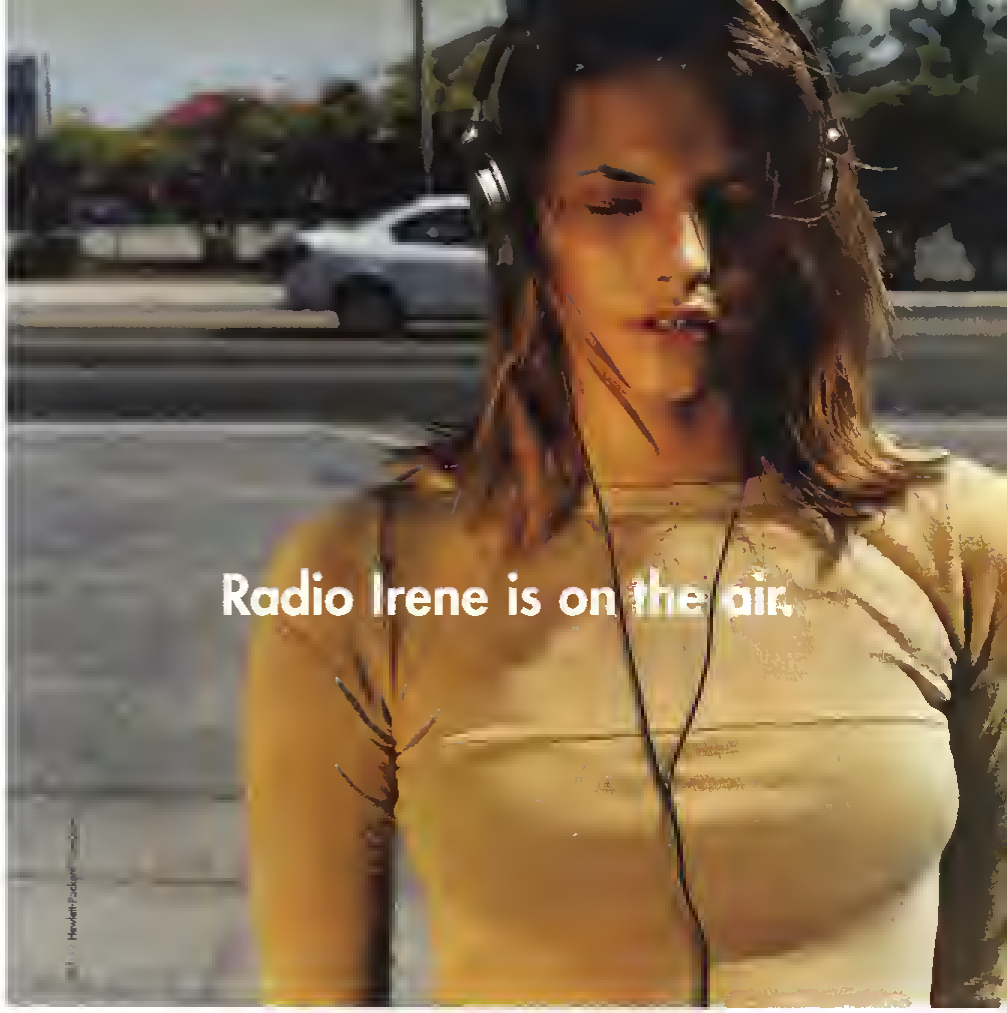
The fiasco in Florida has shown once again that Democrats are quicker, smarter and tougher than their opponents. By the election morning after, they were moving en masse into Florida, piling up evidence of confusion and chaos in the voting, making sure everybody heard from those nice Jewish grandmas in Palm Beach who, it turned out, might have punched their ballots for Pat Buchanan rather than Gore. (Best headline of the week, from the Jewish *Forward* newspaper: "Fate of free world resting with *bubbes, zaydes*.")

Republicans, once again, seemed obsessed with legalisms—the Florida law that says all votes "shall" be in by exactly one week after the election. Democrats focused on the big picture: let's not rush to judgment, let's take a few extra days and make sure we get it right. And, once again, the Democrats could not have asked for better enemies—especially Florida's hapless secretary of state, Katherine Harris, the Bush crony who promised to declare a winner even if votes were still being counted.

The difference between then and now—between impeachment and The Big Recount—is that, unlike Clinton, Gore is actually right. The crucial issue was how to solve the impasse in a way that will allow the eventual winner to be acknowledged as legitimate by the other side, or at least a good chunk of it. Gore made the best offer: count all votes in the state by hand, not just the ones in the handful of Democratic counties that were the focus of so much attention last week. There was a real risk in that for both sides, but Bush wasn't willing to take it. Instead, he turned Gore down flat—and let slip what may have been the last chance to reach a verdict that most Americans will see as fair.

The result (unless something changes very quickly) will be the worst possible outcome: a president entering office with half the people convinced he doesn't deserve it. The United States, and the rest of the world, will get along just fine whoever gets to live in the White House for the next four years—the centrist Democrat or the centrist Republican. But it does matter how he gets there. And in his first big test Bush stumbled badly, staking his future on the shaky argument that tallying votes by hand is necessarily "arbitrary and chaotic."

One thing's for sure: all those lawyers won't be out of work any time soon.



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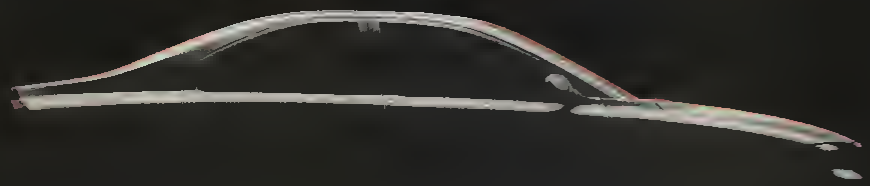
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Searching for Tommy

As former Indonesian president Suharto lay ill and surrounded by his family, police stepped up the manhunt for his fugitive son, Tommy. The 38-year-old was sentenced on Sept. 22 to 18 months in prison for corruption, but disappeared. Police have repeatedly searched the home of Suharto, who has also been charged with corruption but is too ill to stand trial.

Asylum for Fujimori?

With his grip on power slipping, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori visited Tokyo to seek financial aid, but was tight-lipped about rumours that he was seeking political asylum in the land of his forefathers. A bribery scandal involving Fujimori's fugitive ex-spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos plunged Peru into a political crisis, prompting the president to announce that he would retire after elections are held in April.

A watery grave for Mir

Citing rising costs, Russia has decided to steer its troubled 14-year-old Mir space station into the Pacific Ocean in February. The decision marks a defeat for the commercial MirCorp consortium, which had tried to raise private funds to keep Mir in operation. Authorities warned that some debris from the station may hit land.

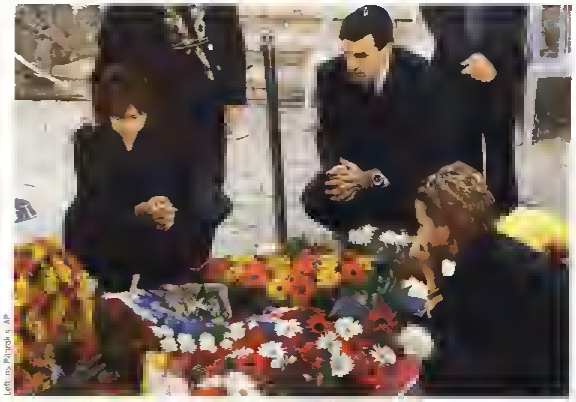
President on the ropes

Although Philippine President Joseph Estrada continued to deny allegations that he received $12 million in bribes from illegal gambling operators, legislators in the country's senate pressed ahead with plans for an impeachment trial. The senate intends to issue a summons to Estrada this month, with the trial set for early December.

Investigating a tunnel fire

In the wake of the Nov. 11 cable car inferno that killed 155 people in an Austrian alpine tunnel, authorities began investigating an oily substance found on the tracks. Experts said it could be hydraulic fluid that leaked from the train and caught fire. Only 12 people managed to escape from the cable car, which was packed with skiers and snowboarders.

A time to remember—and hope



Left: Ilia Yefimovich / AP

Dalia Rabin (left) and her brother Yuval at their mother's grave, a dream of peace

As Israelis mourned the death from cancer of Leah Rabin, 72, the wife of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat ignited a rare burst of optimism when he called on Palestinian gunmen to restrain from violence. Rabin, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for his attempts to bring peace to the region, was assassinated in 1995 by an ultraconservative Jew. And Leah Rabin's burial refocused the attention of Israelis and Palestinians on her husband's belief that the two sides could live in peace.

There has been little recently to bolster such hopes. At least 236 people, most of them Palestinians, have been killed in the region since Sept. 29, when fighting erupted in Jerusalem. Last week, American envoy Dennis Ross tried to keep Rabin's dream alive by encouraging Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to return to the negotiating table. But Barak has refused to resume talks until the violence stops.

Meanwhile, two men who carried out the suicide bombing of the USS Cole on Oct. 12 in the Yemen port of Aden have been identified as Afghani guerrillas. Their identities were determined from ID photos found in a home they rented in Aden. Seventeen American sailors died in that attack.

A happy ending

India's most infamous bandit, Veerappan, freed the country's most famous hostage, 72-year-old movie star Rajkumar, after holding him captive for 109 days in a series of jungle hideouts. As word spread of Rajkumar's release, fans set off firecrackers and paraded around his home in Bangalore, in southern India. But officials still do not know why Veerappan released the actor when neither of his demands—the release of 51 of his accomplices from jail and an $18-million ransom—were met. Veerappan, 56, who is wanted for 130 murders, the slaughter of 2,000 elephants and the smuggling of sandalwood, has eluded capture during a crime spree that has lasted 30 years.



Zarb, going for a global, nonstop market open to all

Nasdaq Moves In

By Katherine Macklem

Only brokers would attend a party at that hour. Hundreds of invitations were sent out for 8:30 Tuesday morning for the launch this week of Nasdaq Canada—opening the tech-oriented U.S. stock exchange directly to Canadian investors. Named on the invitation was a high-level crowd: Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, his deputy premier and finance minister, Bernard Landry, and Frank Zarb, Nasdaq Stock Market Inc.'s hyper-ambitious chairman. All were destined to gather on St-Laurent Boulevard in Montreal at the chi-chi Complexe Ex-Centris—a cinema normally dedicated to independent films. The site was to be linked by satellite to the New York City showplace of the Nasdaq market. The entire market, including its new Montreal wing, was to be opened from the cinema in a ceremony to be displayed on Nasdaq's multi-storey screen in Times Square.

As Montreal gets a stock market again, the TSE may get competition

The morning revelry comes more than six months after Zarb and Bouchard struck a deal to bring the world's largest screen-based stock market (that is, one with no trading floor) to Canada—or more precisely, to Montreal. Their agreement, announced from New York amid much fanfare as well, was seen partly as an end run by Nasdaq around the Toronto Stock Exchange and partly as a crafty move by the Parti Québécois, which wants to see equities trading return to Montreal. The pact, and this week's party, also come at a time when the world's securities markets—Canada's included—are in tremendous flux. The old-fashioned world of suspenders and hand signs is being replaced by computer strokes and high-speed electronic signals. Major exchanges, such as those in Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels, as well as Toronto and New York, are forming international alliances.

Zarb's goal for the Washington-based Nasdaq is to compete as a nonstop, round-the-world exchange, accessible to all. While the Montreal connection is only a tiny piece of a much bigger puzzle, the red-carpet treatment given to Zarb by the Quebec government is a big help.

Hoopla and grand ambitions aside, what arrives this week—Phase 1 of Nasdaq Canada—is a modest affair. Nasdaq officials describe three stages to their project. First, Nasdaq terminals on the desks of registered brokers in Montreal will be linked to the U.S. exchange, allowing traders to place orders directly. Phase 2 is potentially much more significant: the creation of a new equities market in Canada. The shares of listed Canadian companies would be bought and sold in both Canada and the United States. But this second phase, vaguely scheduled for 12 to 18 months from now, will only take place if Phase 1 is considered a success, says John Wall, president of Nasdaq International Ltd. and the man responsible for getting Nasdaq Canada up and running. Phase 3 sees the linking of this new Canadian market with Nasdaq Europe and Nasdaq Japan—and the implementation of the nonstop market.

So what changes this week? The large Canadian brokerages—and some smaller ones—already have U.S. affiliates or subsidiaries that are active Nasdaq traders. Nasdaq's new arrangement drops the step of calling the United States to place an order, and cutting a step saves money. But it also has a high cost: allowing a foreign governing body—NASD Regulation Inc., a separate arm of the National Association of Securities Dealers, which set up Nasdaq in 1971—to regulate the Montreal-based broker members. The Quebec Securities Commission, which regulates them in other fields, will not have jurisdiction over their Nasdaq activities. Some Canadian players perceive another cost, too—that Nasdaq Canada will siphon off much of the Canadian securities business. The plan, particularly if it gets to Phase 2, could shrink the existing Canadian market, says one Bay Street brokerage executive. "Why," he asks, "am I going to feather their nest and marginalize the Canadian market?"

There is already a trend for Canadian businesses to migrate south, responds Wall. This year, 35 will list on Nasdaq, he says, some exclusively, attracted by the immense heft of the U.S. marketplace. In 1999, the Toronto Stock Exchange, Canada's largest, turned over about $390 billion (U.S.) in trades, Wall points out, while Nasdaq's turnover rate is between $90 billion and $100 billion (U.S.) a day. "New potential growth companies are not even participating in the Canadian market," Wall says. Even Phase 1 of the Nasdaq project helps Canada, he argues. Before this week's launch, Canadian brokers shipped trading business to U.S. offices, he says. "Why can't the business be done right in Canada?"

While most of Canada's large brokerage firms have signed up, there are holdouts. Merrill Lynch Canada Inc., part of one of the world's largest financial houses, and RBC Dominion Securities, the investment-banking arm of the Royal Bank of Canada, are the two biggest firms that, for now, are not participating. A Merrill spokesman says his firm already has 165 Nasdaq market makers in New York who trade 90 per cent of the approximately 5,000 Nasdaq-listed companies, including nearly 150 Canadian firms. "We can better serve Canadian and global clients by executing Nasdaq trades under our centralized trading operation based in New York," he says. Dominion Securities, which is buying U.S. financial firm Dain Rauscher Corp., says its clients might be better served out of its U.S. offices. Once the $2.2-billion deal closes, says DS equity chief William Moriarty, the company will look at Nasdaq and "re-evaluate the business model."

Another issue was language. Would Nasdaq operate in French? *Non*. As a U.S.-based exchange that for now has only computer terminals in Montreal, it will function in English. Bouchard's interest in Nasdaq centres on the return of an equity market to his province. The Montreal Exchange, in existence since 1874, gave up its equities business last year as part of an agreement with the other exchanges in Canada. That deal—itself a response to shifts in the securities business outside Canada—gave Montreal all of Canada's derivatives business. But, to the chagrin of the separatist Quebec government, its equities trading was ceded to the Toronto Stock Exchange, Canada's market for large and mid-sized corporations, and to the Calgary-based Canadian Venture Exchange, or CDNX, where small-cap companies are traded.

The TSE, which is talking with the New York Stock Exchange and other bourses about creating a global trading system, says it welcomes the competition. "Nasdaq being here is a good thing—it gives people alternatives," says Barbara Stymiest, president and chief executive of the TSE.

The party on St-Laurent Boulevard this week in Montreal marks the beginning of Nasdaq Canada. Once markets are a 24-hour-a-day affair, the party may never finish. m

SOUTHERN TRADES

A sampling of Canadian companies that list on Nasdaq (all are also listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange)

COMPANY	INDUSTRY	MARKET CAPITALIZATION (U.S. dollars)
JDS Uniphase Corp.	fibre optics	$65.4 billion
Ballard Power Systems Inc.	fuel cells	7.6 billion
Research In Motion Ltd.	wireless devices	5.9 billion
Enbridge Inc.	natural gas	4.1 billion
Mackenzie Financial Corp.	mutual funds	2.3 billion
QLT Inc.	pharmaceuticals	2.2 billion
ATI Technologies Inc.	graphics chips	2 billion
Bell Canada International Inc.	telecommunications	1.5 billion
Air Canada	airline	1 billion
724 Solutions Inc.	wireless banking	818 million

Sources: Nasdaq, TSE



Rabie (left), Harary, Varadi: the implicit trust of close friends

Young kings of a toy empire

Spin Master's trio is a $100-million global force

By Danylo Hawaleshka

There was no reason to think the day would go badly Spin Master Toys had done remarkably well that holiday season, selling 400,000 units of the Air Hogs Sky Shark—a motorized styrofoam airplane powered by compressed air. It was Boxing Day, 1998, and Ben Varadi had come in to the office to do a bit of work, but something was wrong with the phones. Checking the darkened lobby, Varadi, one of Spin Master's three owners, found the receptionist's console awash in white light. Angry customers had jammed the lines trying to contact the Toronto-based company. Varadi started to take the calls. "Oh my God!" he recalls thinking. "Everybody got these planes for Christmas, they've opened them up, gone out to fly them and they've either broken a wing or they're having a problem."

The company was swamped by calls all day. "There were so many, I had to fake an answering machine. 'You've reached Spin Master Toys. Please call back tomorrow. We are closed for today,'" Varadi says. "I didn't know what to do." Some customers reacted to his schtick with profanities. Most were angry that the Air Hogs' fragile wings had snapped in crashes the first time their kids played with them.

In the ensuing weeks, Spin Master voluntarily shipped more than 100,000 replacement wings to irate customers, as well as making changes to the design. It was a tough initiation for Varadi and his two partners, then all in their 20s, as their first major success seemed to be turning to disaster. But they went on to sell more than three million Air Hogs and cemented themselves as a force to contend with in the global market for toys. As the lone division of Seiger Marketing Inc., Spin Master has gone from $542,000 in revenue in 1994, to $7.9 million in 1998, to a remarkable $103.4 million this year, employing 93 staff in Toronto and another 17 in its Hong Kong office. Profits are confidential in the privately held company, but accounts shown to *Maclean's* in support of the revenue figures confirmed it makes tidy earnings.



Behind the success story is a well-matched trio of owner-managers. Varadi, 30, is the company's personable, wisecracking head of product development, raised, as he puts it, on a steady diet of television. Anton Rabie, 29, is Spin Master's no-nonsense president; he rarely smiles but has a proven knack for landing and keeping the accounts of heavyweight retailers such as Wal-Mart and Toys "R" Us. And Ronnen Harary, 29, is the soft-spoken and thoughtful chief executive, a moderating presence somewhere between Varadi's occasionally over-the-top hilarity and Rabie's persistent solemnity.

The mix has impressed the com-





When the wings on the first Air Hogs Styrofoam planes started falling off, the company changed the manufacturing process

petition. Alan Hassenfeld, CEO of Pawtucket, R.I.-based Hasbro Inc., the world's No. 2 toy company with $6.2 billion in revenues last year, is full of praise for his upstart mini-challenger. "I like anyone who has energy, spunk and creativity and is basically thumbing their nose at the establishment, which is me," Hassenfeld told *Maclean's*. "I think they've done a brilliant job."

Still, it has not always been an easy climb. The trio's first major test was the Air Hogs product failure. In addition to shipping the replacements, they made what the toy industry calls a "running change," modifying the manufacturing process in mid-flight by taping tough Mylar strips to the wings for reinforcement. Since then, they have redesigned the plane entirely and rechristened it the Air Hogs Liberator. The fuselage is now made out of plastic and the wings are designed to separate from the body in a crash to better absorb impact. Furthermore, notes Harary, Spin Master today employs six customer service agents to attend to, as he says, "any product issues that happen to arise."

Unfortunately, history sometimes repeats itself. Last spring, Spin Master introduced E-Chargers, small styrofoam airplanes that come with a battery-operated charger to power up the toy's propeller. While an Air Hogs unit retails for $39.99, E-Chargers sell for $18.99 and are aimed at younger children, aged 5 and up. As with the Sky Shark, Spin Master received complaints about the Styrofoam wings breaking on the E-Chargers. The company again resorted to Mylar tape to reinforce flimsy wings and is looking at more rugged types of Styrofoam.

The two incidents do not seem to have hurt the company's reputation. Debbie Nicholson, divisional merchandise manager at Toys "R" Us (Canada) Ltd., has worked with Spin Master almost from its inception, and sees the trio of Harary, Rabie and Varadi as "creative, innovative go-getters" who stand behind their product. "They usually react to any quality issues before anyone realizes there is a quality issue out there," says Nicholson. "They are proactive—they are not reactive."

How do they operate so smoothly? A lot has to do with the implicit trust the close friends have in each other. Coincidentally, both Harary and Rabie emigrated from South Africa as children, at 6 and 7 respectively. They met in Canada, at a summer camp north of Toronto, as nine- and 10-year-olds, becoming fast friends. Rabie later met Varadi, a Toronto native, in the business program at the University of Western Ontario in London. They often spent late nights together studying Varadi's exceptionally detailed class notes.

LIKE A ROCKET

Spin Master Toys has seen annual revenue take off in the past three years

(in millions)



Then, as the tale goes, Harary's grandmother, returning from a visit to Israel, brought as a gift a novelty item that Harary felt could become another Pet Rock. He convinced Rabie to go into business with him, manufacturing what came to be known as the Earth Buddy, essentially sawdust and grass seed stuffed into the end of a nylon stocking and shaped to resemble a human head. When soaked with water, the seeds sprouted what looked like green hair. The pair decided to make 5,000 units for Mother's Day in 1994, but soon decided they needed someone to oversee manufacturing. Rabie suggested Varadi. He and Harary hit it off, and the trio went on to sell 4.3 million Earth Buddies, which retailed for $7.99.

The next year, the three of them developed and masketed Devil Sticks, a three-piece, twirling set of batons, which gave rise to the Spin Master name and took them into the U.S. market on a large scale for the first time. Retail price: $14.99. They sold 1.75 million units. In 1998, the trio took the toy world by storm with the Air Hogs Sky Shark. They have since expanded the air-powered line to include a car, two rockets and, this spring, a submarine for swimming pools. Last Christmas, they scored another hit, launching Flick Trix Finger Bikes. Parents, children and collectors snapped them up, with retailers selling the $9.99 die-cast miniature bikes—duplicates of actual brand-name BMX bicycles—at the rate of 300,000 units a week at their peak. They've sold six million so far.

This holiday season "the boys from Canada," as they are known in some U.S. circles, have set their sights on "extreme" toys, expanding the Flick Trix line to include a variety of motocross bikes, motocross action figures and play stations. Next spring, they plan to take on the world's largest toy company, Mattel Inc., manufacturer of the Polly Pocket line of miniature dolls and accessories for girls, with their own line, called Key Charm Cuties. "We want to do something that no Canadian company has ever done," Rabie says earnestly. "We want to develop world-class toys and become one of the biggest, most successful toy companies in the world." Already, they are a contender that can't be toyed with. m



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Pounded by the markets

The Canadian dollar continued its bumpy ride on currency markets last week, finishing at 64.17 cents (U.S.), close to a two-year low. The loonie has fallen by two cents since Oct. 19, which some analysts attribute to uncertainty over the federal election. Nortel Networks Corp. stock also took another dive last week, closing at a 52-week low of $52.80. It has lost half its value since mid-October.

TD profit falls

The Toronto-Dominion Bank Financial Group reported a profit of $2.2 billion for the year ended Oct. 31, down sharply from its earnings of $2.94 billion a year earlier. The decline was partly due to the costs of acquiring Canada Trust, analysts said. However, profit from its discount broker arm, TD Waterhouse, rose sharply to $315 million from $146 million.

New dots on the Web

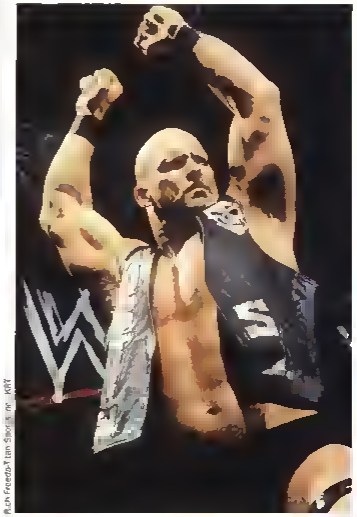
Internet users have grown accustomed to the suffixes .com, .net and .org. Now, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, which oversees the World Wide Web, has created seven new suffixes: .info and .biz, which will be widely available; .name, for personal sites; .pro for professionals; and .museum, .aero and .coop for museums, airlines and co-operatives.

Chapters Online cuts staff

In a cost-cutting move that analysts applauded, Chapters Online Inc. laid off 73 employees, or 18 per cent of its workforce. The money-losing e-tailer, whose parent company, Chapters Inc., operates a chain of big-box bookstores, recently eliminated another 40 positions, largely through attrition, for total savings of $5.5 million.

Coke pays for discrimination

Coca-Cola Co. has agreed to a $290-million settlement in a racial discrimination lawsuit launched by four employees who alleged that there were disparities in pay, promotions and performance evaluations between whites and African-Americans. An estimated 2,000 current and former employees will receive payments.



Ron Frehm/Titan Sports Inc./AP/CP

The WWF muscles in

Watch out, Sportsnet and TSN. Stone Cold Steve Austin (left) and other stars of the World Wrestling Federation are helping to build a third TV sports channel. WWF's Canadian subsidiary announced a deal with Headline Media Group, owner of The Score—formerly known as Headline Sports—to broadcast key WWF shows as well as the WWF-owned Xtreme Football League, which debuts in February. WWF also has an option to buy 10 per cent of The Score. Earlier this year, regulators allowed the channel to broadcast live events as well as headlines.

Nesbitt fined for rogue trading

BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. has agreed to a $212,000 penalty imposed by the Montreal Exchange following an investigation that revealed that floor traders, who deal in bond futures, executed 59 deals outside the prescribed trading pits and in each case did not obtain the best possible price for clients. The deals were placed through a company account between May and October, 1998, and realized a total profit of $76,850, some of which flowed back to the traders in the form of higher bonuses. Nesbitt has fired a former vice-president, David Kennedy, who supervised the traders, but he is suing for wrongful dismissal.

Financial Outlook

Canadians lead the world in Internet use, according to a new international study. Some 48 per cent of Canada's households now have Internet connections, says Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, and Canadians spend the greatest average time per week online—5.1 hours. Both figures are up significantly from a year ago, when 43 per cent were online, surfing an average of 3.9 hours. Canadians were ahead of Americans, Australians and Europeans (measured in Britain, France and Germany). Intriguingly, the average time online for Americans declined to 4.2 hours from 5.3, which the researchers said "may be a sign of the medium's maturity." And what would Canadians do if they weren't online? Not just watch TV (32 per cent). Topping the list of alternatives, at 38 per cent, was reading.

THE MOST WIRED

	Net-connected households	Hours/week online
Canada	48%	5.1
United States	43%	4.2
Australia	38%	3.6
Europe	26%	3.2

Europe combines results in Britain, France and Germany

Source: Pricewaterhouse-Coopers

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The digital ballot box

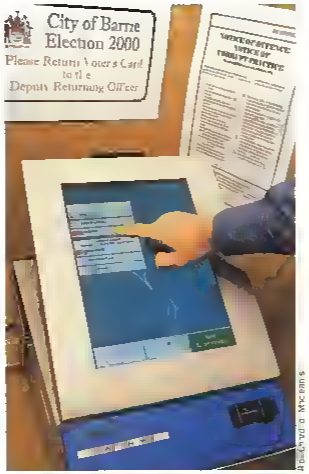
Few citizens had heard of the chad before the U.S. presidential election bogged down in Florida. Chads, as just about everyone now knows, are the tiny pieces of perforated paper that a voter punches out of a ballot card with a stylus in a voting machine system. Chads can be stubborn, clinging by an edge and confounding aging mechanical counters by flapping closed over the hole. Clinton Rickards would be happy to help. A director of Vancouver-based Global Election Systems Inc., which makes computerized ballot machines, Rickards says U.S. counties are now clamouring for his equipment. "We've got calls already from people saying, 'This is crazy, we're not going through this again.'"

Global Election Systems boasts of having its machines in 850 Canadian and U.S. electoral jurisdictions. In municipal elections this month in Ontario, the city of Barrie, 80 km north of Toronto, became the first in the province to use Global's AccuTouch-TS touch-screen ballot machine, which does away with paper ballots altogether. Barrie spent about $375,000 for 60 polling terminals and a central computer to tabulate results. At the polling stations, Barrie officials identified individuals on a computerized voters list, checked them off to prevent them from voting again at another station, and showed them a terminal behind a cardboard screen. Touching the screen highlighted a candidate's name. Touching it again negated the choice. Once decided, the voter pressed a separate on-screen button to cast the ballot. The AccuTouch can print out ballot tallies and stores them on a hard drive, floppy disk and so-called flash memory. The system, says John Craig, Barrie's city clerk, sends results through telephone lines or via wireless modem once polls close, although Barrie, proceeding cautiously, had staff drive the floppy disks back to city hall.

Toronto had its own brush with technology this month, keeping paper ballots—which voters completed by filling in a gap in an arrow beside a candidate's name—but feeding them into optical scanners from Electronic Systems & Software Inc. of Omaha, Neb. Results were relayed by wireless modem to a central computer. Also this month, three Quebec municipalities used paperless Perfas-MV voting tablets made by Ste-Foy, Que.-based Quattra Design Inc. People voted by pressing a button on the tablet next to the candidate's name on the display screen.

For the Nov. 27 federal election, counting will be done the old-fashioned way: by hand. But a September amendment to the Elections Act allows chief electoral officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley to study holding votes over the Internet. To ensure voter identification, Kingsley speculates, Ottawa might someday ask voters to supply retinal scans. A camera on a person's home computer, or at a polling station, would then snap a shot of the retina, which has a unique vein pattern, and compare it with the one on file. It would certainly be easier than examining chads.

Danylo Hawaleshka



Voting with Barrie's system, no chads

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Diane Francis

Health: condition critical

All the fuss by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his Liberals that the Canadian Alliance will create a two-tier health system is ridiculous. In fact, Canada currently has a four-tier system, which is very sick and urgently needs a fresh injection of ideas.

The first tier is basic care for all Canadians. The second tier consists of all the medical services that Canadians pay for out of pocket. Governments fork out roughly $70 billion for the first tier, while individuals in Canada pay another $25 billion for supplementary health insurance and drugs. Then, there are the two other tiers that have been created because Ottawa forbids the current system to be revised for the better.

Tier three is enjoyed by persons involved in health care either as doctors, health-care employees or directors of hospital boards. These people and their families do not have to wait for treatment because their connections allow them to jump queues of wait-listed Canadians. Similarly, the fourth tier involves those Canadians wealthy enough to get top-notch medical treatment instantly south of the border or elsewhere outside Canada. Unfortunately, a series of federal governments have denied that such tiers exist or, more important, that anything can be done to change the system for the better. But the remedy is readily available, as anyone who is knowledgeable about European health-care systems can attest.

Canada needs only ape what the Dutch or Germans, for example, do. They provide a basic medical service for all residents, but also allow them to buy insurance in order to take part in a private, more expensive system that provides faster service in more pleasant surroundings. Such a system, by the way, is not about one system for the rich and one for the poor. In the Netherlands, 35 per cent of residents opt to pay for the extra service through payroll deductions or other measures, in Germany, the figure is 10 per cent. Those who don't opt for insurance benefit from basic care, which is still more than adequate.

By contrast, Canada's current system is inadequate in spots and getting worse. Waiting lists are lengthening, even for needed treatments, and costs are rising. Resources are strained and doctors are trickling out of the country. All this could be reversed instantly. In fact, our health system could be converted from a nagging overhead to a huge profit centre through simple reforms.

Health care should operate exactly as our education system does. Foreign patients, like foreign students, should be encouraged to come here. If this were allowed, hordes of Americans might come north for treatments, and a new industry could be created earning foreign currency. But they should be charged premium rates as a means of subsidizing care for Canadians and creating health-care jobs.

Private hospitals should also be allowed, just as the education system allows private schools. By permitting Canadians to pay extra for private, more luxurious care, pressure would be removed from the public system without reducing its revenues. This is how the education system works: private schools are supported by parents who pay private tuition, but who also pay taxes to support the public system. In other words, let people pay for both a private and public system in health care if they choose, as is allowed in education.

Put another way, if education was run like health care, there would be no private schools for basic education. Those who wanted schooling in a hurry or on a private basis would have to go south of the border or elsewhere. Instead of looking at reforms, the Liberals perpetuate the myth that their system delivers the same health care to all Canadians. They also perpetuate the myth that the official Opposition would create a two-tier system, one for the rich and one for the poor.

Europe has been able to provide better health care at dramatically lower costs by allowing people to buy insurance for the same services covered by their basic medical coverage. At the same time, the Europeans have devised a system that allows practitioners to earn more money in the private health field without cannibalizing the quality of the public system. One way these countries protect their health service is to insist doctors must put in a certain number of years in the public health sector before being allowed to spend any time in private practice.

But Ottawa has dug in its heels, playing politics with a system that is badly in need of help. Now, due to intransigence, it appears that a fifth tier is beginning to emerge. Recently, a man in Toronto who needed immediate radiation treatment for cancer could not get it soon enough in Ontario, so provincial health authorities sent him to Buffalo, N.Y., for several weeks' treatment at huge expense to taxpayers. As more such incidents occur, we will find ourselves forking our even more tax dollars to purchase basic treatment from expensive American facilities because such basic treatment is unavailable here. This would be like Canada sending public high school students to private American educational institutions because there were insufficient schools, school buses or teachers available here.

The politics involving health care in this election campaign are disgraceful. All parties must seek solutions and stop merely playing around trying to win cheap debating points. Canada's health-care system is ill and without major surgery the patient's prognosis is exceedingly grim.

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS



Mentors who are among Canada's top executives provide guidance and counsel to the Young Entrepreneur Award recipients. During the past year, Marc LeFrançois, Chairman of Via Rail, worked with Chris Bond and Ken Zomiak, co-founders of Frantic Films. These young entrepreneurs benefited from Mr. LeFrançois' practical advice and support as well as guidance in broadening their management skills and contacts in the business community.

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Young Entrepreneurs In The New Millennium

When is 13 a lucky number? When you are one of 13 young entrepreneurs chosen from each part of Canada to receive the annual Young Entrepreneur Award from the Business Development Bank of Canada.

It is also a lucky number for BDC. This is our 13th year honouring gifted and talented young people under 30 who embody Canada's entrepreneurial spirit. Fresh ideas and young Canadians are key to this country's success in the 21st century.

The extraordinary stories you will read in the following pages profile our winners at the beginning of their careers. Remember their names. They are about to shape Canada's future.

Optimism, energy and enthusiasm. Those are the words that describe Canada's young people at the beginning of this new millennium. Nowhere else is this youthful spirit better represented than in the following pages. Here you will find the stories of the young men and women from every province and territory who have been selected to receive this year's Young Entrepreneur Awards.

The Business Development Bank of Canada has proudly sponsored these awards for 13 consecutive years. Once again, we present to you gifted and talented young entrepreneurs. They are all under 30 years old, in business for themselves and making a mark on their community, the country and, one day, the world.

BDC IS IN BUSINESS FOR SMALL BUSINESS. The Young Entrepreneur Awards embody BDC's commitment to this important and growing segment of the Canadian economy. These are the young people with the passion to commit new ideas to paper and sell their vision, prepared for the high risks and long hours needed to succeed.

Passion is the name of the game for our Ontario winners, brothers Mark and Nathan Laune, and their company, Passion Group Inc., who turned a university poster wall calendar business into a magazine and online job centre for young people. In addition, Passion Group Inc. has been selected from all our winners to receive the prestigious Exporter of the Year Award.

The Young Entrepreneur Award winners demonstrate that excellence is not restricted to the large and well established. True entrepreneurial spirit is expressed in all areas of the country and in traditional and new businesses alike.

Connie Parsons in St. John's, Nfld., for example, is a young entrepreneur who has turned her devotion to dance into a full-time teaching career. Having studied dance since she was three years old, Connie took over her former instructor's business when she was only 21. The number of students enrolled in the Connie Parsons School of Dance has tripled over the last four years and Connie continues to find exciting ways to grow her business.

BAM Solutions in Montreal is the creation of two young partners, Chris Emergui and Dwayne Dear. Launched in 1996 primarily as a Web design firm, BAM has developed along with the Internet. Today, the company has developed into a leading Internet advertising firm with offices in both Montreal and Toronto.

Another Young Entrepreneur, Patrick Akpalialuk, recognized and made the most of opportunity in Canada's newest territory, Nunavut. Patrick founded his company, Northstar Networks, to meet the needs of Nunavut's growing computer business. Northern businesses are faced with the twin challenges of higher freight costs and extended shipping times. Northstar has helped its clients overcome these limitations by assembling and servicing computer systems in Nunavut.

An important part of the awards program carries on throughout the year. Each winner is matched with a mentor specially selected from the established business world. These accomplished businesspeople stimulate the growth of these young companies by offering practical advice and support while encouraging the larger business community to participate.

The Young Entrepreneur Awards kick off Small Business Week in Canada, an important celebration of entrepreneurship.

Michel Vennat
President and CEO, BDC

Young Entrepreneurs In The New Millennium

NEWFOUNDLAND

Dancing on The Rock

Connie Parsons, Connie Parsons School of Dance

The wildly successful growth of Connie Parsons' own dance school is an excellent illustration of the maxim, "Do what you love and the money will follow."

Connie, now 25, began dancing at age 3. At 16, her dance teacher sensed a superior talent in the works, and asked Connie to be an assistant instructor. The ensuing five years involved much studying and training, and resulted in accreditation from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and the Canadian Dance Teachers Association.

In 1996, Connie assumed management of her retired teacher's practice. She soon gained the confidence to put her own name on the sign, and now the Connie Parsons School of Dance has seen a three-fold increase in business during the last four years.



"When your business is in arts instruction, credibility and professional training are very important assets."

"When your business is in arts instruction, credibility and professional training are very important assets," explains Connie on how she turned her personal career into a thriving business.

The Connie Parsons School of Dance offers classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern stage and ballroom dance. Connie keeps a close eye on trends in dance to provide her students with the best in current as well as classic styles. With students from age three to adult, Connie's goal is to provide the highest quality dance education, making all students feel confident about their dance skills. Connie pays special attention to nurturing her young students.

As a result of her success, Connie has recently opened a new studio, and is considering the possibility of branching out into other cities in the province. Plans to hire additional teachers and administrative help and incorporate a dancewear store in her studio space show how Connie's entrepreneurial spirit is the perfect partner for her love of dance.

Mentor: VINCE WITHERS

Vince Withers is a member of the Order of Canada, and a well-respected businessman. He has been with Newtel for 41 years, including eight years as the company's President and CEO, from 1990-1998. Mr. Withers is strongly active in the community, sitting on several boards of directors.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Small-Screen Entertainment Wins in a Big Way

Jason MacNeill, Jumbo Video

A new graduate usually starts looking for a job, but Jason MacNeill knew he would rather create one. By establishing his own business, he's also created a name for himself at Jumbo Video Canada, which recently voted his Charlottetown franchise Store of the Year.

Jason has blended hands-on experience with formal education. Working at his father's Shoppers Drug Mart outlet from an early age gave him a sense of the challenges



"Probably the greatest factor in our success is customer service. We place a premium on how we treat customers."

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Young Entrepreneurs In The New Millennium

"We believe in theatrical flair. In our stores, we emphasize the entertainment aspect, which is something you see immediately when you come in."

and rewards involved in running your own business. After graduating with a degree in Business Administration in 1996, he opened his first Jumbo Video franchise. Jason now operates Jumbo Video stores in both Charlottetown and Summerside, providing work for 34 full- and part-time employees.

Considering how crowded and competitive the video rental market is, Jason feels that differentiating his stores is very important. "We believe in a theatrical flair," he explains. "Many video stores just see movies as another commodity along with the chips and pop. In our stores, we emphasize the entertainment aspect, which is something you see immediately when you come in."

As for his winning advantage, Jason is particularly proud of his stores' commitment to customer service. His recognized achievements in staff development ensure that his employees are knowledgeable and well trained. "Probably the greatest factor in our success is customer service," he maintains. "We place a premium on how we treat customers."

Mentor: REGIS DUFFY

J. Regis Duffy is the President and CEO of Diagnostic Chemicals Ltd., a company which he founded in 1970. Diagnostic Chemicals specializes in the manufacturing of diagnostic products used in the pharmaceutical and life sciences market. Mr. Duffy is the former Dean of Science and Chair of the Chemistry Department of the University of Prince Edward Island. His excellence as an entrepreneur earned him Atlantic Canada's Entrepreneur of the Year Award (Manufacturing) in 1994.

NOVA SCOTIA

Do "IT" Well and They Will Come

Jason McGrath,
KLJ Computer Solutions Inc.

Jason McGrath, 28, founder and President of KLJ Computer Solutions Inc., knows the value of quality work. He believes that his company owes its solid reputation to its satisfied clients and partners, who recommend the firm's services to others. Based in Halifax, KLJ specializes in database application development.

Jason started on the digital track as a teenager, working on the family's Atari 800. Tinkering with this early-generation home computer—experimenting with spreadsheets and databases—would ultimately inspire Jason to go into business for himself.

In university, Jason's elective courses exposed him to the commercial applications of computers. Although he trained as an engineer, Jason decided to enter the computer consulting field, first in his native New Glasgow and then in Halifax. After a brief stint working for a local consulting firm, Jason decided to head out on his own and started KLJ. Jason set a first-year revenue target for his new company, and was able to reach that goal in only four months.



Jason McGrath

"Word-of-mouth has been our best advertisement. It's not just between clients, but also between the companies that we affiliate with."

The company has garnered an impressive array of clients, local and international, large and small. KLJ is also frequently tapped to be a partner with other IT companies around North America. Jason finds that the best marketing for his

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Young Entrepreneurs In The New Millennium

When starting out, Jason set a first-year revenue target for his new company, and was able to reach that goal in only four months.

company is simply a job well done. "Word-of-mouth has been our best advertisement," Jason says. "It's not just between clients, as valuable as that is, but also between the companies that we affiliate with."

Jason is an active member of the community, participating in several local business associations. He is also extremely dedicated to youth initiatives and supports educational, mentoring and internship projects with his time and resources.

Mentor: BRUCE MACKENZIE

Bruce MacKenzie, Senior Vice-President, Atlantic Canada for the Royal Bank is Jason McGrath's mentor. With more than 20 years at the bank, Mr. MacKenzie will provide important financial insight for Nova Scotia's young entrepreneur. Based in Halifax, Mr. MacKenzie is responsible for overall management of the Royal Bank's personal and business banking operations in the Atlantic Provinces.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Making His Garden Grow

Andy Buyting, Green Village

Andy Buyting is the owner and operator of the Green Village garden-supply store in Fredericton, the largest operation of its kind in Atlantic Canada. Since 1996, he has seen revenues at the store nearly double, and this year will be Andy's best. These robust results came in spite of a fire that levelled the property on New Year's Day 2000 and kept him on the sidelines for nearly four months.



Andy Buyting's Green Village garden centre is a destination for its customers. One of its unique features is the Butterfly House, where visitors can walk among over 300 butterflies flying freely around the nursery.

Green Village is a destination for its customers. One of its most unique features is the Butterfly House, where visitors can walk among over 300 butterflies flying freely around the nursery. Customers can also enjoy a treat from the in-store ice cream parlour while they shop, and children can keep busy in a separate play area.

Andy is no stranger to the gardening business. He worked for his father's vegetable farming and processing operation at the age of 14, and continued putting in 40-hour weeks while carrying a full course load at university.

"The sky is the limit when you work for yourself," he maintains.

With the success of Green Village under his belt, Andy has set his sights on launching the region's largest cranberry producing operation. Andy's 100-acre site has the infrastructure in place to produce three million pounds of cranberries per year. Since it will take a year or two for the vines on his site to ripen, he's eyeing 2002 for his inaugural cranberry harvest.

Both Green Village and the fledgling cranberry farm have sprouted from Andy Buyting's dedication to innovation and expansion—and, of course, gardening!

Mentor: FRANCIS FOX

Francis Fox, President, Rogers AT&T Wireless, Eastern Canada, is Andy Buyting's mentor. Through a long career in public service, law and communications, Mr. Fox provides a wealth of experience to this year's winner from New Brunswick. He was born in Montreal and received his early education in Quebec before attending Harvard and Oxford. Mr. Fox was the Rhodes Scholar for Quebec in 1963.

QUEBEC

Surfing Their Way to Profits

Chris Emergui and Dwayne Dear, BAM Solutions

When Chris Emergui and Dwayne Dear talk about their Internet advertising company, BAM Solutions, they talk about being in the business of education.

The two 28-year-old Montrealers say they not only need to educate some of their clients about the value of the Internet and having a Web site, but they must also keep themselves and their staff abreast of the latest breakthroughs in the technological revolution.

Dwayne came to that realization about education when he began building computers as a 14-year-old. While he was at university, he used to surf the Net for information on building Web sites. At the same time, Chris was studying marketing at McGill University. The two friends, who have known each other since adolescence, realized that they had complementary skills and they both wanted to be entrepreneurs

In mid-1996, Chris and Dwayne launched BAM Solutions. Today, the company has a staff of 25, as well as a new



Friends since adolescence, Emergui and Dear had complementary skills and both wanted to be entrepreneurs.

office in Toronto, which opened in April, 2000. The company has already won three creative awards, one in Quebec, another in San Francisco and a third in Portland, Ore.

Mentor: MARC LEFRANÇOIS

Marc Lefrançais, Chairman of the Board of Via Rail Canada Inc. since 1993, is the mentor for Chris Emergui and Dwayne Dear. Since his arrival at Via Rail, Mr. Lefrançois has transformed and revitalized the rail service, enabling the company to service the same number of localities as in 1993, but more frequently and at lower cost. Before becoming Chairman of Via Rail, Mr. Lefrançais was with the Macyro Industrial Group, which he founded in 1973.

ONTARIO

A "Passion" for Business

Winners Export Achievement Award

Nathan and Mark Laurie, Passion Group Inc.

Brothers Nathan and Mark Laurie have such a passion for business they wisely decided to name their company Passion Group Inc. And that passion has paid off in a big way.

Passion Group's mixed-media enterprise posts jobs for students seeking entry-level positions in Canada and the United States. And it all grew out of a modest university calendar project back in the Laurie's student days at Dalhousie University, in Halifax. Now, these young entrepreneurs not only provide sponsored Poster Wall Calendars for free to 250,000 student residences all across North America, but also publish the only monthly magazine of job advertisements for students on both sides of the border. Put a job Web site on top of that and you have a booming enterprise.



The secret to the Laurie's success is simple: they enable their clients to effectively reach the university student market.

"Being online in itself is not a big deal," explains Mark. "The fact is, we're a publishing company. Together, the Web and magazines meet our market. We have to be in both media."

The secret to Passion Group is really quite simple. They help the top companies in North America reach the student market to promote their corporate brands or recruit for job openings. Their client list is impressive. General Motors (US) Saturn division, Ford Motor Co. of Canada and Microsoft. And while many online companies are still searching for those elusive customers somewhere in cyberspace, the Laurie's are already making a profit.

The Passion Group's current staff of 11 has an average age of 24, and their passion for what they do will help the company remain in touch with their market.

Mentor: ANDRÉ OUELLET

The Hon. André Ouellet, President and Chief Executive Officer at Canada Post Corp. and Chairman of the Board of Purolator Courier Ltd., is Mark and Nathan Laurie's mentor. Before coming to Canada Post, Mr. Ouellet was active in federal politics for nearly 30 years, providing valuable assistance to three prime ministers and was responsible for key cabinet portfolios.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

MANITOBA

The Internet–Made to Order

Lisa Bako and Sigrid Froese,
Ingenuity.com Inc.

Lisa Bako and Sigrid Froese left the University of Manitoba with marketing degrees in hand and set out on a journey into the exciting and fast-paced world of Internet design. Two years later, their careers took a sharp turn, putting their educational background to better use.



As successful entrepreneurs, Bako and Froese are mentors themselves, and take part in programs targeted particularly ta young women.

At the time, the Internet was beginning to go commercial and the partners had the vision of putting the Web to work as an effective marketing tool.

In 1997, their company, Ingenuity.com Inc., was born. Together, they developed and created a computer software program called PHT (Personalized Hyper Tools) Suite, which is an Internet content management and filtering program. By analyzing client profiles on a Web or Intranet site, PHT manages and customizes the information they will be viewing.

"We initially started marketing PHT as a business-to-consumer application," said Lisa. "But it has really taken off in a different direction. We're seeing more of a business-to-business need."

Ingenuity.com has developed a solid reputation in the industry. The company's PHT Suite software is being touted by experts as an innovative solution for the business-to-business market. The company also offers customized and development services to their clients including graphic design, software customization, marketing and strategy consultation and training.

Today, the company is on the brink of tremendous growth. With a current staff of six and plans to expand, Ingenuity.com is preparing to work on new projects with an expanded client list.

As young businesswomen, Lisa, 28, and Sigrid, 29, understand the meaning of hard work in a competitive market. Outside the office, the two take part in various programs aimed at teens, particularly young women. They've been involved in mentorship programs, "Youth at Risk" video series and speaking engagements on the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship.

Mentor: POLLY CRAIK

Polly Craik, President and CEO of Fine Line Communications Ltd., is the mentor for Lisa Bako and Sigrid Froese. Her company of 80 employees in Winnipeg provides data processing, transactional processing, inbound call centre, telecom services and consulting for direct mail and donor management systems. In addition, Ms. Craik is enrolled in an international program for young entrepreneurs under the age of 40 called "The Birthing of Giants".

SASKATCHEWAN

High Wireless Act

Chris Krywulak,
Jump.ca Wireless Supply Corp.

Chris Krywulak's high-school daydreams turned into a business vision that has now translated into winning results. Teachers may not have appreciated his ability to tune out during class time, but little did they know that Chris was busy planning a new path that would eventually lead to the creation of a highly successful wireless and computer company.

After completing high school, Chris worked at his first job on an assembly line at a local steel plant. But steel was not for him. With his plant savings in hand, Chris ventured out on his own two years later, at the age of 20.

Now 29, Chris is President of Jump.ca Wireless Supply Corp. (formally dotcom Communications Corp.), serving the Saskatchewan market since 1990. On the retail side, Jump.ca specializes in wireless phones and innovative wireless technologies, including wireless Internet. Jump.ca also serves the computer industry and related cutting-edge technology, such as handheld devices and high-speed Internet access. iQmetrix, an e-business software program,

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Young Entrepreneurs In The New Millennium

has been developed by Jump.ca and is yet another venture currently being introduced to the market.

"I've set goals for myself that I've wanted to achieve before turning 30," said Chris. "Winning this award is a great accomplishment. It will have great benefits for our company."

The company operates eight retail locations, two corporate offices and boasts a staff of nearly 100 employees. Last year, *Profit Magazine* ranked Jump.ca 33rd in its fastest-growing company category. This is the second year Jump.ca has appeared on the Profit 100, placing 15th in 1998. It's also the second year that Jump.ca is the only Saskatchewan company on the magazine's prestigious list.

Success, innovation and ingenuity have paid off for Chris Krywulak and made his company jump to the head of BDC's list for the Young Entrepreneurs Award.



High-school daydreams turned into a winning business vision for Chris Krywulak of Jump.ca

Mentor: NORMAND LEGAULT

Normand Legoult is best known for his remarkable work as President of Grand Prix Formula 1 of Canada. He is also very active in the business community and an ambassador for UNICEF.

ALBERTA

Clothes Make the Men

Sean Fillion and Scott Hendrickson, Echo Clothing Co. Inc.

When Sean Fillion and Scott Hendrickson left high school, they already had a clear idea of what they wanted. They wanted to work for themselves. Five years ago, Sean and Scott started designing T-shirts, but they quickly realized there was a larger opportunity. In 1998, they established a street-style clothing and footwear store called Echo House Clothing in Calgary.

The shop targeted the California-style surf and skateboard set that was taking off in Calgary. What distinguishes Echo House Clothing from other lifestyle businesses catering to the 15-to-30-year-olds is that the store does not carry any hard goods, such as skateboards. Rather, it boasts the largest and best selection of clothing and footwear for enthusiasts on wheels.



"It's been a hard and challenging road for us. Winning this award is a real pat on the back."

"It's been a hard and challenging road for us," said Scott. "Winning this award is a real pat on the back." Less than three years after launching the enterprise, the partners have opened two larger outlets. It's tangible evidence of the growth potential of their original vision.

Sean, 28, and Scott, 29, are both plugged into the tastes and needs of their young clientele. They hire DJs to play live music during peak times and they plan to introduce juice bars in their two larger locations.

With a staff of seven full-time and six part-time employees, Sean and Scott still operate all three stores in a hands-on manner. They take pride in the fact that they built a successful business from the ground up. They attribute that success to being able to spot emerging trends and keeping pace with the growing demand for lifestyle clothing.

And what's next for these young entrepreneurs? Sean and Scott plan to open a distribution centre and warehouse by next year. They also have their sights set on their own e-commerce site to expand their reach into rural Alberta and maybe, one day, outside the province.

Mentor: PAMELA GROF

Pamela Graf is President and CEO of InterVisual. Her Internet solutions company has seen a staggering 2,500% growth since 1996. Ms. Graf was recently recognized as one of Canada's Top 40 under 40 recipients, and as one of Alberta's 50 most influential people.



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Young Entrepreneurs In The New Millennium

BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Double Take on Marketing

Brenton and David Nichols,
Inventa Sales & Promotion Inc.

Brenton and David Nichols are quite possibly the perfect business partners. Like most twins, the two 30-year-old brothers grew up sharing everything, so it only made sense that they would end up in business together. They are partners in Inventa Sales & Promotions, and their creative approach to field marketing has resulted in some memorable, if unconventional, campaigns that certainly make people look twice. "We have always shared everything, and we trust and support each other," explains David.


Brenton and David Nichols

The Nichols brothers grew up in Coquitlam, B.C., and studied at Simon Fraser University. Brenton studied communications while David pursued a degree in business. Both had a fascination with advertising and marketing.

After graduating, the brothers worked in marketing, managing campaigns for high-profile clients such as Pepsi-Cola and Molson. Brenton also travelled extensively in Asia and settled for a time in Australia, where he managed a major product launch for Snapple beverages. During this time, he realized the potential for a unique field-marketing company in Canada.

Out of that vision, Inventa was born. Since its inception in 1996, Inventa's business has experienced record growth. Clients include Unilever Canada, Telus, ING Bank of Canada, Molson Breweries and the B.C. Lottery Corp.

Inventa's Vancouver office alone houses 30 full-time staff. Approximately 200 contract or part-time employees make up the front-line teams. Inventa also has offices in Montreal and Toronto, with satellite offices in Calgary, Halifax and, most recently, the United States.

Brenton and David grew up with a love for sports, and they now support young athletes through sponsorships. The twins are in the process of establishing an endowment fund at their alma mater, Simon Fraser University, to support young entrepreneurs and sport enthusiasts.

Mentor: GARY MEEHAN

Gary Meehan, President, Onvia.com Canada, is Brenton and David Nichols' mentor. His 17 years of experience in managing teams and growth in the technology and distribution industries will be of valuable assistance to this year's winners from British Columbia. Mr. Meehan was previously vice-president of the company's Canadian operations and earlier played a key role in increased sales at Doppler Computer Superstores in Vancouver.

YUKON

Exploration Pays Off

Andrew Robulack,
Pixelar Strategies Inc.

Andrew Robulack, 29, is originally from Vancouver, where he studied film at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. So how did he end up running a successful Internet company, Pixelar Strategies Inc., in the Yukon?

The seeds for Pixelar were planted five years ago while Andrew was working for an exploration company in the Yukon. He fell in love with the North and moved to Whitehorse. Andrew began to teach himself the "ins and outs" of the Internet, a fascinating technology that allowed him to fuse his interests in design, video and writing.

Snapping up one of the few high-tech jobs in the territories, he began working for Hypertech North, the largest Internet provider in the Yukon.

However, working on the strictly technical side of the Internet didn't satisfy Andrew's creative impulses, so he launched his own company to bring both sides of the business together. Pixelar is now three years old and has four full-time staff. The company offers Web site development, hosting, planning and strategy, design, and Internet-focused marketing, including advertising.


Andrew Robulack

"After all the hard work and energy, it is tremendously rewarding to be recognized by an organization like the BDC," Andrew says.

As it is the only Yukon-based business that concentrates solely on Internet communications, it quickly established itself as a fixture in the local communications landscape. Andrew is committed to staying in the Yukon and continuing to serve clients that Pixelar has worked so hard to develop.

Mentor: GARY HEWITT

Gary Hewitt is President of Arctic Star Printing, the largest printing company in the Yukon. He is a very active member of the business community. Mr. Hewitt was recently appointed director of the 2000 Arctic Winter Games Host Society.

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YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Paddle to the Sea

Ria Letcher, North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge Ltd.

The North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge in the Northwest Territories is a family dream come true. Ria Letcher owns and operates the lodge, but it was her husband's uncle, Stanley Cli, who planted the seeds of the northern vision. Now it is a reality—a lodge that welcomes visitors from around the world to come and enjoy the beauty of the Nahanni region.



As Ria says, "We shouldn't be the only ones who savour this scenery. Others have to see it. The air is so fresh. The water freezes so clear you can see the rocks at the bottom of the lake. And the northern lights are breathtaking and visible all winter."

The Ladge is a dream come true far Ria Letcher and family.

Ria began work on the project in 1993. Since then, she and her husband, Loyal, have been providing "world-class accommodations in the middle of nowhere" to guests of all nationalities. Guests come to stay for a few days or a few weeks, where they leave the other world behind and learn to enjoy guided hikes, fishing and skiing in the lakes and mountains surrounding the lodge.

The North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge is unique because it is owned and operated by aboriginal people whose Dene culture is a part of the daily life of the lodge.

Along with her husband, Ria plans to build additional accommodations, add a ski hill and provide outfitting services for nearby Nahanni National Park. Ria obviously has many more dreams to weave and watch come true.

Mentor: JACK ROWE

Jock Rawe, a successful businessman and municipal councillor from Hay River, is Ria Letcher's mentar Starting with a small gravel-hauling operation in 1975, Mr. Hay has expanded into heavy equipment, real estate and the entertainment business. He is respansible for projects undertaken by the Rawe group af companies and acts as financial controller

NUNAVUT

Go North, Young Man

Patrick Akpalialuk, Northstar Networks

Patrick Akpalialuk and the new northern territory of Nunavut have many things in common. For starters, they are both young and going places fast. Since the creation of Nunavut on Apnl 1, 1999, business possibilities have been sprouting up all over the place, presenting boundless opportunities to danng young risk-takers like Patrick.

Patnck spotted one of those opportunities after he left his job as a network administrator to start Northstar Networks. Northstar is Nunavut's first and only company to manufacture and service computers, and that places Patrick in the enviable position of being an industry pioneer in the North.

The biggest challenge for Northstar Networks, like all northern companies, is the great distance from major suppliers. But Patrick has turned this challenge into a big competitive edge over his rivals, because by providing one-stop shopping and servicing, he saves his customers the cost of sending their computers away to be repaired.

The 29-year-old entrepreneur revels in his ability to turn what was originally a hobby into a successful and dynamic business. "I'm doing it because I've always really enjoyed it. I don't think of it as work," he says.

For the time being, Patrick's business is focused in Nunavut. Eventually, he hopes to expand his operations to Ottawa, where he still has connections from his studies in computer science. But while his company may someday look south for growth, there is no question that the Canadian North has provided a solid foundation and excellent rewards for Patrick and Northstar Networks.



Akpalialuk's remote locatian warks to his competitive advantage.

Mentor: ALAIN CARRIÈRE

Alain Carrière is a 25-year veteran businessman in the Arctic, involved in a number of canstruction, logistics and environmental endeavours. Mr. Carnère's extensive grassraats invalvement in many northern cammunities will provide this year's winner from Nunavut, Patrick Akpalaluk, with important insights inta business development and growth.

Weir is world-class

Canadian golfer swings into the elite ranks

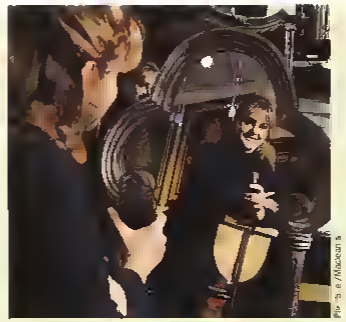


Armando Franca, AP

Weir: after three years on the PGA Tour, he takes first in Spain and sixth overall

Mike Weir did more than just pocket a $1-million cheque last week. By winning the season-ending American Express Championship in Sotogrande, Spain, over a star-studded field that included **Tiger Woods**, **Lee Westwood**, **Nick Price** and **Vijay Singh**, Weir, from Brights Grove, Ont., confirmed his status as one of the elite golfers in the world. And that, for a Canadian man, is rare territory. Although **Dave Barr**, **Dan Halldorson** and **Dick Zokol** all won tournaments over the past 20 years, no one since **George Knudson** in the late 1960s has fought his way into the top rung of players worldwide.

That is remarkable considering Weir, 30, is only three years removed from playing the Canadian Tour for purses that were less than a tenth of his winner's share in Spain. This year, the $2,547,829 he won on the PGA Tour was good enough for sixth place overall. His rise, though swift, has been built on solid swing mechanics that held up under big-tournament pressure. At home in Draper, Utah, with his wife, **Bricia**, and two daughters, Weir said he now has his eye on winning one of golf's major championships. "It gives me a lot of confidence," he said, "to bear a world-class field on a top golf course."



Pic Is a Maclean's

Travis' lessons in home decorating

The house of Debbie

Debbie Travis, host of the popular decorating show *The Painted House*, is aware that curtains and pillows are low on the list of priorities for television news programs. Recently, Travis postponed a planned spot on *Canada AM* when she found out she was scheduled the morning after the American election. She learned her lesson years ago when a segment with the CBC was cut due ro breaking news in South Africa. At the time, Travis was sitting in the green room with **Nelson Mandela**. "I said, 'I think my curtains are more important than South African peace problems,' " jokes Travis. "He said, 'I really wanted to see what you were doing.' "

Foreign leaders aren't the only ones interested *The Painted House*, which airs every day on WTN, is the highest-rated decorating show in the country. Now, after the success of two previous how-to books, a third, *Debbie Travis' Weekend Projects*, is on the shelves. Travis's new book focuses on staining, woodworking and lighting. But there is one alternative to paint that you won't see Travis use—and not everyone likes her for that. She cites a Toronto wallpaper store that has a window with "a no smoking sign—a red ring with a line through it—only instead of a cigarette, there is a picture of me."

An outsider's eye

"I'm thrilled, of course," says **Anita Rau Badami**, about receiving the $10,000 Marian Engel Award from the Writers' Trust of Canada last week. "But I was taken aback, too," the 39-year-old author adds with a laugh, "because it's for a woman writer in mid-career, and I'm just starting."

The Indian-born author, who now lives in Vancouver, has written two novels. 1996's *Tamarind Mem* and *The Hero's Walk*, published in May. She describes herself as an occupant of "the in-between territory—I might never have written fiction had I not moved from one continent to another."



Pic. Bea Maccoll's

Badami, thrilled

Badami—whose first Canadian home was in Calgary, where she suffered not from "culture shock, but weather shock"—will train her outsider's eye on Canada for the first time in her next book. Nine years after immigrating, Badami finally feels acclimatized—in every sense of the word.



The *Maclean's* Excerpt

Tragedy on Ice

Disasters, both natural and manmade, are the stuff of Canadian legend and history, from the sinking of the Titanic and the Halifax explosion to the Westray mine explosion and the downing of Swissair Flight 111. They also inevitably produce heroic responses to the forces of Mother Nature. In a recently released collection of 31 articles from the archives of *Maclean's*, *In the Face of Disaster*, published by Penguin Books Canada, examples of such heroism abound, with perhaps none greater than the tale of survival more than 75 years ago of a group of desperate Newfoundland sealers abandoned for three stormy days on an ice floe. The story of how 79 died—and 55 survived—was told in the Jan. 28, 1961, edition of *Maclean's* by Newfoundland historian Michael Harrington and assistant editor Barbara Moon.

One of the most dramatic disasters in Canadian history occurred on the Newfoundland ice floes in 1914

On a clear April morning in 1914, the barrelman [lookout] of the Bellaventure, a Newfoundland sealing ship, spied a huddle of dark shapes on a waste of ice in the North Atlantic. At first, he thought they were seals. Then, some of the shapes began to lurch forward with a gait that, even at a distance of several miles, did not seem to him the gait of seals. What the barrelman had spotted was all that remained alive of 134—almost the entire crew of the sealer Newfoundland—who had been marooned on the ice for three days and two nights in a blizzard. Only 55 were saved, and more than half of these were maimed or disabled for life. It was one of the great disasters in the 200-year history of sealing, yet until the Bellaventure sighted the survivors, no one—not even their captain—knew the men were missing.

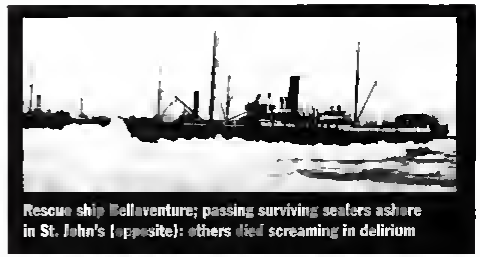
Even after almost half a century, survivors have memories they cannot banish. There's Tom Dawson of Harbour Grace, who lost both his hands and remembered stacking corpses like cordwood out on that ice, to get some shelter from the wind. There's Charlie Martin of Elliston, Trinity Bay, who was one of 10 men aboard from his village and the only one who survived. Martin lost consciousness the second night, but he still remembers that when rescuers picked up his body they piled it with the dead. He lost six fingers and five toes. And there's Hedley Payne, now 65, who had never been to the seal hunt before and whose best friend died there on the ice. He remembers a man who came to a shipmate lying on the ice and began to strip off his warm outer clothing. The one on the ice raised his head and said, "Wait a minute. I'm not dead yet." So the other waited, and after a while he was able to cut off the coat and put it over his own.

This is what happened.

Each year, when spring comes, old green ice from the great polar cap, icy waste from the Arctic rivers, icebergs calved in Greenland, and rafters of ice from north of Russia and the Hebrides are nudged by the tides into a wheeling mass covering 20,000 square miles, a monstrous afterbirth of winter that drifts down the east coast of Canada past Newfoundland to pass into chill fogs off the Maritimes and the New England coast. Each spring, the hair seals keep a primal rendezvous with the ice. They have come south to whelp in February near the Strait of Belle Isle; now, before they start to migrate north with their young they seek out the ice field and travel with it for a few weeks while their young gain strength and get ready to shed their soft puppy fur. And each spring, the sealers put out from Newfoundland to find the seals and kill the babies for their pelts.

That year, 1914, the 20 ships of the sealing fleet sailed early in March. Hedley Payne, a dark, wiry lad from Wesleyville who had wangled his very first berth to the ice, walked for two days to the Gambo railway station to catch the sealers' car into the capital in time to sign on. He had just turned 18. With him was his best friend, Job Easton, 19. In St. John's, they bought their gear on credit at Harvey's and then went to take a look at their ship, the Newfoundland, 568 tons. She was the largest of the 11 old wooden walls in the fleet and when Payne saw her he thought she must be the biggest ship in the world. In command was Capt. Westbury Kean, 29, a member of a Newfoundland dynasty of merchants and sealers dating from the 18th century. That year, his father, Capt. Abram, had a new steel icebreaker, the Stephano, and his brother, Capt. Joe, had Stephano's sister ship, the Florizel. The Keans, being kin, had privately agreed to help each other out when needed. They'd look after one another's men if a crew was separated from its home ship at nightfall. And Capt. Abram said he'd signal Capt. Wes by hoisting the Stephano's after-derrick if he found seals first.

The Newfoundland cleared from St. John's on March 10 and got north as fast as she could. Then, on Monday, March 30, the Stephano's derrick was raised in the prearranged signal. The Newfoundland immediately got up steam to overtake her, but about six o'clock at night she jammed hopelessly in the ice. Capt. Wes then decided to send his men on foot to the Stephano to get in on the seal slaughter, and at dawn on Tuesday morning he turned them out on the ice. At the time, the day seemed fine. The air was soft with coming spring and many stripped off the heavy clothes that might have saved them later. The only food they took was hardtack and a bit of raw oatmeal and sugar. The big grizzled first mate, George Tuff, 50, was in charge of the 134-man party. The Stephano, visible on the horizon, was seven miles away. They quickened their pace and got to the Stephano around noon. They went below for a mug-up until the call came, "Newfoundland's crew over the side," and when they came up it was just starting to snow.



Rescue ship Bellaventure; passing surviving sealers ashore in St. John's (opposite); others died screaming in delirium

The Stephano manoeuvred so her weight would tighten the floes and give the men a solid jump-ground, and they tumbled out on the ice. While she steamed off, the men walked inland to the seals, a patch of some 800. They moved among them swiftly, singling out the whitecoats first and killing them with a sharp tap on the nose with a gaff. Others set to work to skin



Rescuers bringing in bodies and survivors: no one knew the men were missing

them. The men's boots were soon slippery with blood.

Now the snow thickened—"those big blossoms that pitch on you and then melt," recalls Payne. "We weren't cold, but we were getting wet." Soon, they could see only a few yards. This was when many of them learned that Capt. Abram wasn't coming back to pick them up; instead, Tuff had agreed that they'd return over the ice to the Newfoundland. Now, they were heading into the wind's teeth and it was suddenly a gale. It carved their wet clothing to their bodies and froze it into stiff mummy wrappings. The men began to flounder, doubled against the slice of the wind and the sting of driven snow, slithering waist-deep into slob ice or stumbling into open water. The vanguard halted uncertainly and when Tuff caught up, he said they'd better dig in for the night.

He mustered off the party into three groups of 45 men under master watches Arthur Mouland, Tom Dawson and Sidney Jones, and told them to kick up blocks of ice into shelters. Hedley Payne and Job Easton were in Mouland's group. They decided against using their gear for fuel, but in the other shelters men with clumsy fingers struggled to set fires with gaffs and towropes. The ones who'd got wet to the skin were already horribly frostbitten. One man thrust his numbed feet right into the fire and never felt the heat till they were badly burned. Another, hacking at his hardtack with a knife, accidentally severed his finger, mitten and all, and stuffed it in his mouth without noticing.

At six o'clock, Job Easton said he was going to lie down and die

It was now well after six o'clock. Back on the Newfoundland, Capt. Wes was to spend the night preoccupied with the safety of his ship. Jammed in the ice in a bitter southeast gale with a heavy swell, he was several times in deadly danger. As for his men, he thought they were safe aboard the Stephano, according to the family arrangement. Aboard the Stephano, Capt. Abram, who knew they'd been heading back to the Newfoundland, gave them no more thought.

Some time after dark, the wind veered and the temperature plunged to 10° F. Now the shelters gave no protection from the blizzard. Around 10 p.m., a man in Mouland's shelter went mad. He shouted and shrieked and turned on the others with his sheath knife. Then he fell to the ground and rolled around, still screaming. It went on for two hours until around midnight, when he died.

It was urgent that they stay on their feet. Some of them shuffled round and round in circles. Jess Collins from Hare Bay took charge of one group and set them to act out jigging for fish. Then he made them march in single file, each pounding the back of the man in front. During the night, Mouland, patrolling the fringes of his group, found two men dead; he lugged the bodies outside the shelter where the others wouldn't notice them.

When dawn came, the snow had stopped, but the gale continued. The Newfoundland, jammed in the ice, was less than two miles away and there were five other ships in the area, but the wind was blasting the drift in blinding, choking jets across the ice and the men could scarcely see. The master watches went swiftly among their men counting heads. Surprisingly, most had come through the night alive and their spirits had risen with first light. They'd be spotted soon, or the weather would clear and they'd locate the Newfoundland.

The day wore on. Around 5:30 p.m., when darkness began to fall, the men understood that they'd be on the ice another night. Then they began to die like flies. Before, they'd died hard, screaming in rebellion and delirium; now they died stealthily, shaking off anyone who tried to keep them on their feet.

At six o'clock, Job Easton told Hedley Payne he was going to lie down and die. Payne kept at him for a couple of hours, pulling at him, trying to keep him on his feet. Not far away, another man was fighting the same battle. Cecil Mouland of Hare Bay saw his cousin Ralph draw apart and curl up on the ice. He clawed through his nunny-bag [knapsack] till he found a bit of oatmeal, and when Ralph was too weak to eat, Mouland chewed up the cereal himself and fed it to him. Then he lugged Ralph to his feet and kept him going, saying: "Don't give it to them at home to say you died on the ice." In the end, Payne could do nothing for Easton. He was weak himself and he began to be afraid Easton would pull him down. So he walked away. "We were all goofy, like drunks," he says painfully. "Whenever I was half-conscious I could hear him, until about nine or ten o'clock, when I guess he died."

This is all Hedley Payne remembers. "Then it was dawn. The wind had died. The sky was blue. I looked at the horizon and counted seven ships. I looked around me. Here and there I began to pick out a foot or an arm or the hump of a back sticking out of the snow. The next time I came out of the trance I still felt good. The sun was like a ball of fire shining right at me and two figures were coming towards me. There was a ship about a mile away, steaming in. It was the Bellaventure."

The vessel set out for St. John's with the dead and the most seriously crippled. On the way, Payne was taken on deck to see if he could identify Job Easton. He couldn't make him out in the jumble. Later in St. John's, however, the bodies were taken to the King George V Seamen's Institute and put in the swimming pool. After hot water was run in to thaw them, Payne was able to pick out his friend by his clothing.

As for Hedley Payne, a friend asked him afterward how it had happened that he hadn't been scared and had never once thought he might be going to die. "It was my first trip to the seals," said Payne. "I thought that's what a seal hunt was like." m



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Ann Dowsett Johnston

Measuring the quality gap

David Smith, the Harvard-trained economist who steered Queen's University through several of its more challenging years, was a man of impeccable integrity and remarkable scholarly breadth. Personally modest, he made a significant contribution to the world of higher education in this country. Only weeks before his death this spring, the 68-year-old Smith had put the finishing touches on two seminal reports for the Council of Ontario Universities. The first, titled "Will there be enough excellent profs?" examined the urgent need for faculty hiring to meet the coming needs of students. The second, "How will I know if there is quality?" reviewed a variety of evaluations of university performance—including the annual *Maclean's* rankings. With characteristic economy, he opened the second report with a cautionary quote from Albert Einstein, going straight to the heart of the matter: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."

Which, of course, is true. How can you measure the unique impact of a university education in raw numbers? How can you tally the reverberating effect of a brilliant professor? How can you capture the lifelong rewards of the experience, except in words? In short, you can't.

> Only a parents' revolution will move education to the top of the public agenda

Still, there are essential ingredients that contribute to the quality of the undergraduate experience and, yes, some of those ingredients can be counted. Between the 1995 *Maclean's* ranking and this year's report, published last week, universities reported a seven-per-cent drop in the number of full-time faculty. And not coincidentally, the number of first-year classes taught by tenured faculty dropped by seven per cent as well. Meanwhile, the proportion of students arriving at university with grade averages of 75 per cent or higher rose, too, again, by seven per cent. Given that undergraduate enrolment in Canada has been on the rise, these factors paint a clear picture: there are fewer faculty to learn from, and admission standards are rising.

In other words, what *Maclean's* is counting counts. Let's take a look at Ontario, home to 40 per cent of Canadian high-school and university students. Since the 1977-1978 academic year, basic operating grants on a per-student basis have plummeted by 50 per cent—from $4,000 to $2,000 in real terms. In ranking the rate of public investment in higher education over the past five years, Ontario places 57th out of all 60 North American jurisdictions. Only Newfoundland, Quebec and Hawaii have diminished their support at a more rapid rate. Is it any coincidence, then, that for the first time this year more than half of the 17 Ontario universities fell in the *Maclean's* rankings? Can anyone predict what this will mean for the thousands of Canadian students heading to university in that province over the next decade?

This fall, David Smith's former university has appointed a dean's task force to examine the quality of a Queen's arts and science education. As dean Robert Silverman points out, some of what counts at Queen's has been cut: in 1990, the student-faculty ratio was 14.7:1. Today, it sits at 19.3:1. The task force, composed of three faculty and three students, will determine what is needed to restore quality. The group's first priority? To figure out what is desirable, what is measurable, and then put a dollar value to it. "The primary question," says Silverman, "is determining what level of quality we want to return to."

If the decision is to return to the quality of 1990, Silverman has two options. He needs to cut 2,000 students or hire 131 professors. Neither will fly with the Ontario government: it's not about to approve enrolment cuts, or ante up the necessary $13 million to hire the faculty. A third option? Boosting tuition fees, a move that would also need government approval. "What's the best thing that could happen?" asks Silverman. "A miracle that would have government recognizing that an educated society is worth the investment. We're a lot cheaper than health."

Even Smith would agree: sometimes what counts can be counted. For 10 years now, as *Maclean's* has taken the measure of undergraduate education at public universities across Canada, government support for higher education has faltered. Ten years ago, the provincial operating grant for McGill accounted for 70 per cent of its operating budget. Today, it accounts for 50 per cent. At more than a third of Canadian universities, the government operating grant accounts for half or less of the operating budget. Let's get the nomenclature straight: these are now publicly *assisted* universities. And perversely, as government support has decreased, the political will to control the agenda has risen.

Last February, when federal Finance Minister Paul Martin transferred $2.5 billion to the provinces for post-secondary education and health, health got all the thunder. What will it take to move education to the top of the public agenda? A parents' revolution, which will come as the baby boom generation begins to grasp the quality gap. Until then, all I can say is: don't shoot the messenger.

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Sweating in the gym: eating fatal heart attacks

Health Monitor

The risk factor in workouts

Heart researchers find dangers in infrequent exercise

Subtle dangers lurk in the sporadic exercise habits of some health-conscious baby boomers who are flocking to gyms around North America. According to a study presented to an American Heart Association gathering in New Orleans, people who exercise just once in a while—generally less than once a week—have a slightly greater risk of an exercise-related fatal heart attack than those who work out more regularly. Dr. Barry Franklin, director of cardiac rehabilitation at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., said the study looked at members of a large chain of U.S. health and fitness centres. Those who suffered the 71 fatal heart attacks or strokes in a total of 182.3 million workouts examined, said Franklin, tended to be less-frequent exercisers, often with one or more risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The authors say their findings may apply to other infrequent exercisers and occasional weekend athletes.

With growing hearts

In other news from the New Orleans heart-research conference:

- In a breakthrough that could lead to a new way to treat heart disease, researchers at McGill University say they have managed to generate new heart muscle in rats. Normally, the heart does not produce new cells. But the Montreal researchers isolated stem cells—which have the capability of developing into various kinds of specialized cells—from the bone marrow of 22 rats, and injected them directly into their hearts. In 20 of the animals, the McGill team reported, the stem cells developed into functioning heart muscle. Dr. Ray Chiu, chairman of the division of cardiothoracic surgery at McGill's Health Centre, said human trials could begin in less than two years.
- Other studies could transform treatment for the roughly two million North Americans who go to hospitals with small heart attacks or severe angina pain each year. One concludes that immediately giving the cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor to those patients—rather than waiting several weeks as is often the case—could reduce the risk of death, new heart attacks and other bad outcomes by 16 per cent. Another study concludes that routinely checking those patients' heart arteries with angiograms, then fixing blockages when necessary with bypass surgery or balloon angioplasty, could reduce these events by 18 per cent.

Fear and denial

Nearly two-thirds of Canadians—63 per cent—admit to worrying about getting cancer, but far fewer are prepared to take preventive measures. According to a Canadian Cancer Society poll, just 13 per cent have reduced or plan to reduce their exposure to the sun. A greater number—55 per cent of those polled—said they eat or plan to eat healthy foods to try to reduce their risk of cancer. The single greatest way to fight cancer, the society noted, is to reduce tobacco use, which accounts for 30 per cent of cancer cases. About one-third of respondents express optimism that researchers will make major breakthroughs in the prevention and treatment of cancer in the next future. The society expects cancer to be the most common cause of death in Canada by 2010.

Transplant crisis

Addressing the serious lack of available organs for life-saving transplant operations, the Ontario government introduced legislation to force hospitals to notify a provincial agency about potential donors and approach families about making a dying relative's organs available. Specially trained "requesters" would approach patients and their families to make sure they have the necessary information to make an informed decision. Donation would still be voluntary, but the new bill aims to increase organ supplies by heightening understanding of the transplantation process.



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Peggy Jay/ITC

A warning from Sachs Harbour

Northerners press for action on global warming

By Mark Nichols

Born on a slab of sea ice during a seal hunt, Rosemarie Kuptana grew up at a time when life in Canada's North was still, as she says, "idyllic." Back in the 1950s and 1960s, the Arctic landscape was still relatively pristine and her people, the Inuvialuit of Sachs Harbour on Banks Island in the northwestern Arctic, survived on the island's abundant game and fish. Now, the Arctic is undergoing ominous changes. Warmer temperatures are undermining the permafrost, causing ugly mudslides along the coast. The once-plentiful caribou are disappearing and, with ice thawing earlier in the year and freezing later, basking seals no longer offer targets for native hunters. Kuptana blames the warming on manmade gases, which scientists say are heating the Earth's atmosphere. And last week, she was in The Hague to show a graphic video on Banks Island's environmental agony to delegates at a crucial conference on global warming. "The Arctic is one of the first regions to feel the impact of climate change," warns Kuptana. "Other countries have to realize they won't be exempt."



Ben Chilowski - Reuters

That message carried an extra urgency as delegates from 180 countries met to thrash out ground rules for reducing emissions into the atmosphere. Over the next century, scientists say, the buildup of emissions could increase the Earth's temperature by as much as 4.5° C, causing floods, drought and other environmental devastation. Under a protocol hammered out in 1997 in the Japanese city of Kyoto, signatories agreed to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases by an average of 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. While some European countries have already reined in emissions, some industrialized nations, including the United States and Canada, have not. Instead of declining, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions have risen by at least 13 per cent since 1990.

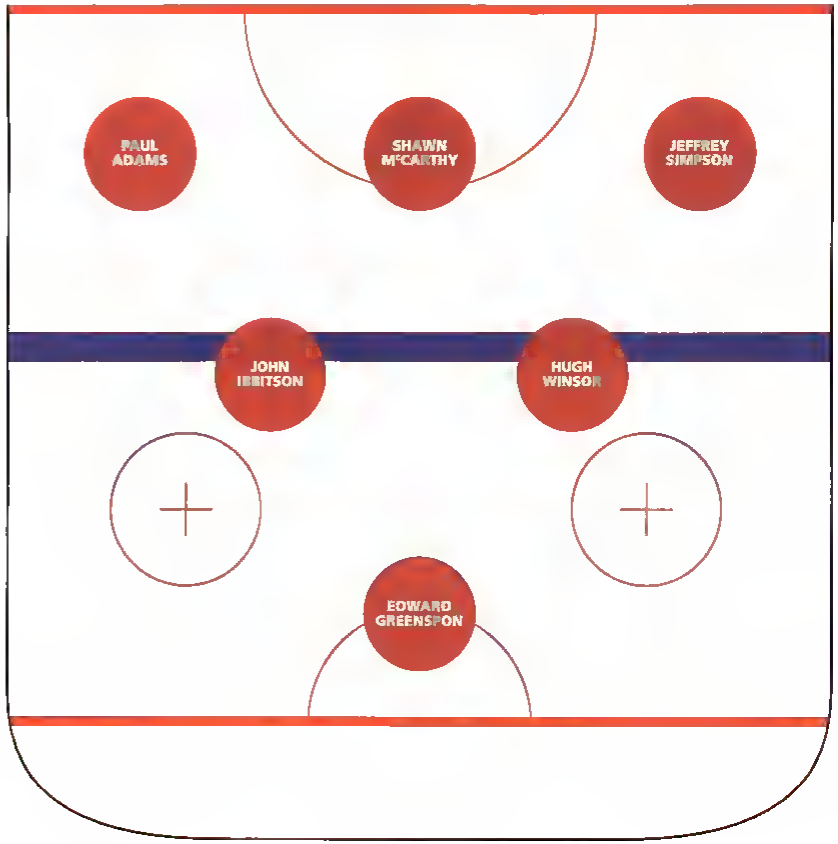
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With time running out for reaching agreement on implementing the Kyoto targets, the conference faced an array of contentious issues, including the terms under which nations will be allowed to buy and sell so-called emissions credits. Such a system would allow industrialized nations to supply "clean" energy technology to other countries and claim the reduction in potential emissions as a "credit" against their own. The Canadian delegation, led by former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy, wants sales of Candu nuclear reactors to qualify for such credits. But that hope was shaken when U.S. officials, who had previously agreed with Canada's position, announced that the inclusion of nuclear power plants was open to negotiation—a move that could leave Canada without a major ally on the nuclear-power issue.

Another controversial subject was the demand by Canada and some other nations to have forests and agricultural land count as emissions credits because of their ability to act as "sinks" that soak up carbon dioxide. Critics of the proposals object that if countries can earn credits for planting new trees, the system could encourage the clear-cutting of old-growth forest so that fast-growing trees could be planted to earn credits. By seeking credits for reforestation and agricultural land management, charged Steven Guilbeault, a Greenpeace Canada campaigner, "Canada is just looking for loopholes instead of taking real steps to reduce emissions."

Environment Minister David Anderson, who stayed home to campaign for the Nov. 27 federal election, bitterly contests such charges. "If Kyoto is going to succeed," he told *Maclean's*, "the terms will have to be flexible—and we say, if forestry or nuclear reactors can help reduce emissions, why shouldn't they be taken into account?" Despite Canada's poor record so far, the minister insisted "it will be no problem" for Ottawa and the provinces to meet the nation's Kyoto targets. Kuptana was less optimistic. If global warming is to be arrested, she said, "the political will has to exist—and I'm not sure it's there yet. But the health of the planet is at stake—we can't afford to fool around with the environment any more." m

Sachs Harbour; protester in The Hague (below); later freeze-ups



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Momsen and Carrey; Rugrats (below); softening Grinch's shrivelled heart

Films

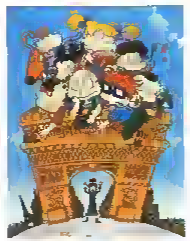
Spectacular Seuss

A dazzling *Grinch* faces off against a trite *Rugrats*

Christmas movies are like presents under the tree. Some are just last year's gift in a bigger size or a different colour—such as *102 Dalmations*, a sequel to the 1996 hit *101 Dalmations*. Others are complete surprises, unique and carefully thought out. Director Ron Howard's Dr. Seuss' **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** is in the latter category. While it remains faithful to the text of the 1957 Seuss classic—about the miserable green sourpuss who tries to steal the holiday from the Christmas-obsessed people of Whoville—it is dazzlingly mounted and original in every other detail. The tale of the Grinch, narrated by Anthony Hopkins and starring Jim Carrey, is actually enhanced by the big Hollywood treatment. And as the annual season of excess creeps up, the film gives Seuss a very big platform from which to utter his contrarian Yuletide views.

The widow of Theodor Geisel (aka Dr Seuss) personally approved Carrey for the role of Grinch after meeting him on the set of *Man on the Moon*. Carrey's manic physical comedy is only slightly obstructed by his costume of yak fur and rubber. His Grinch mask, enhanced with outsized yellow contact lenses, took three hours to apply. It was so confining that one day Carrey literally ripped the mask off. A Navy SEAL was brought in to teach the actor some distraction techniques to endure the torture.

In this 21st-century version of Seuss' book, the Grinch's cave on Mount Crumpit is actually the landfill site where Whoville's Christmas excess eventually winds up. Anyone who's endured a stampede in Wal-Mart for the latest Christmas toy will chuckle at the opening scene, in which the bizarrely overdecorated and overdressed citizens of Whoville abandon themselves to the Christmas spirit. Only little Cindy Lou Who, played by seven-year-old Taylor Momsen, is left to ask, "Doesn't this seem superfluous?" Cindy Lou actually cares why the Grinch is so miserable, and her encounters with him soften the Grinch's shrivelled heart. All told, the last word on the movie goes to the 10-year-old in the next seat, who whispered, "Jim Carrey was never better!"



Moving over to the other side of the Christmas tree, fans of the late Charles Schultz may find it galling to hear creators of the popular children's TV series *Rugrats* refer to their motley gang of diaper-clad, booger-and-poop-joke-dispensing babies as the *Peanuts* of their generation. **Rugrats in Paris. The Movie**, the second feature about the little darlings, leans on that fail-safe device—the dead mommy and Dad's impending marriage to a really mean stepmother—to hook the little ones.

In the opening scene, the entire extended Pickles family is at a wedding when Chuckie wishes aloud that his widowed father, Chas, would go out and find him a "new mommy." Then, feel your heart sink as the DJ invites mothers and their children for a twirl around the dance floor while bespectacled Chuckie is left blinking back the tears from the sidelines. Before you know it, the whole clan is invited to Paris, where Stu Pickles has been summoned to fix the robot at the EuroReptarland theme park. There, the babies run afoul of the ambitious, kid-hating Coco LaBouche. Coco, distraught that she may lose a promotion at Reptarland because she isn't married with children, launches a search for "a spineless little man with a brat of his own so I can claw my way to ze top!" Enter matchmaker and senior Rugrat, Angelica, who promises to deliver such a man in exchange for her own float in the Reptarland parade and a couple of ponies.

Chuckie is oblivious to the plot at first. Even more clueless is dear old Dad, who becomes engaged to the shrew Coco can only manage a quizzical, "Hello! You are not 'orrible!" when she first meets the kids. A happy ending eventually ensues, but not before one of the *Maclean's* panel of experts, a six-year-old, starts to weep for the comfort of her own mother. Adults, meanwhile, may want to weep at the inanity of it all.

Cheryl Hawkes

The original.



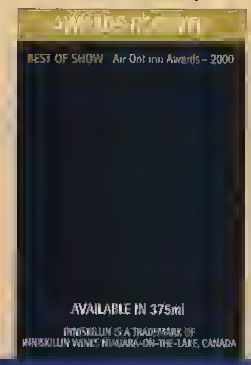
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Winetidings

A Celebration of Wine & Food – excerpts from the December issue



Celebrating the true Millennium

by Tony ASPLER, Editor of *Winetidings*

As we enter the true millennium we mark a date that the federal government should recognize with a year-long celebration – or at least a commemorative postage stamp. I refer to the 1000th anniversary of the discovery of Vinland by Leif Ericsson. According to the sagas, the intrepid Viking explorer found wild grapes growing at his landfall in Newfoundland and called the country he had discovered 'Vinland,' the Land of Wine.

If Leif were to come back today he would find a fruit winery operating in Newfoundland (Markland Cottage Winery at Whitbourne), but travelling west he would discover a vital and burgeoning wine industry in four provinces. A wine industry that has finally discovered itself.

I have written about Canadian wine for 25 years and I have witnessed a sea-change of quality that, were it any other industry, would have been hailed as a miracle.

At a recent dinner party I served blind a magnum of Ontario's Pillitteri Family Reserve Merlot 1998 to my guests, all of whom were wine professionals. I don't normally ask my guests to name the provenance of a wine. (I get it all the time – "Here, wine expert, what's this?" Usually, it's some Bulgarian blend devoid of varietal character and charm.) But I wanted to get their opinion. First, did they like it and second, where did they think it was from? They all loved it but no one said it was from Canada. The consensus was California.

We are beginning to make remarkably good wines in Canada but we are still surprised that we do.

www.tonyaspler.com

Ordering wine on the Web

There is a plenitude of wine-related web sites, but few offer Canadians the opportunity to order wine and have it delivered. One of the best-thought-out Canadian wine Web sites is the Opimian Society's **www.opim.ca**. Recent upgrades to their members' section are fairly fancy.

Opimian is a not-for-profit wine buying co-operative – as such it orders for its members roughly $9 million worth of wine each year. The wines come from around the world, and are delivered to local liquor stores. The site provides a full description of the wines as well as information about the grape type, sweetness level, supplier and maturity, and drinkability. You can place your order, track your wine through the deliveries section, find out about tasting events across the country and catch up on the news.

You can join online or give a gift membership. Once you become a member, you can refer friends for membership, monitor your wine file (every wine ordered since 1992 is listed and updated with its present maturity and drinkability status), and learn more about wine.

The True Millennium Best



Margaret Swaine

You knew it had to happen. Millennium, the Sequel. Of course, there's only one "True Millennium" and this is it. We asked our cross-country correspondents to share their favourites at different price levels. Margaret Swaine offers her top 10 in Ontario.

CAVE SPRING CHARDONNAY 1998 (NIAGARA PENINSULA) $12.60

Appearance: straw
Nose: forward, fresh toasty fruit
Taste: oak aged with medium-full, apple-butter flavours, rounded yet focused with good grip

CAVE SPRING INDIAN SUMMER RIESLING 1998 (NIAGARA PENINSULA) $21.95

Appearance: deep straw
Nose: some desirable minerals in the perfumed, flowery aromas
Taste: zippy, bergamot-citrus-pear crispness combined with honeyed sweetness

HENRY OF PELHAM FAMILY ESTATE CABERNET 1998 (NIAGARA PENINSULA) $15.95

Appearance: youthful crimson garnet
Nose: herbal, earthy berry complexities with sweet oak
Taste: toasty, oaky, supple fruit, with firm tannins and a nice structure

INNISKILLIN CABERNET FRANC 1998 (NIAGARA PENINSULA) $12.95

Appearance: deep red
Nose: very earthy, spiced bouquet
Taste: mellow tannins, ready to drink but nicely structured, full ripe fruit, underpinned by a cedary, earthy undergrowth character

HENRI BOURGEOIS SANCERRE LES RARONNES 1998 (LOIRE) $20.95

Appearance: straw
Nose: cassis-gooseberry exotics
Taste: flavourful but harmonious fruit intensity, with tastes of passionfruit and more

WILLIAM FÈVRE CHABLIS CHAMPS ROYAUX 1998 (BURGUNDY) $17.90

Appearance: pale straw
Nose: fresh, minerally, citrus
Taste: medium body, lively, crisp yet rounded with the minerals and citrus carrying through

PERRIN RESERVE 1998 (CÔTES DU RHÔNE) $12.95

Appearance: purple red
Nose: spicy touch of game and leather to the fruitiness
Taste: blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault, with a spicy warmth and peppery black cherry taste

E. GUIGAL CÔTES DU RHÔNE 1997 (RHÔNE) $14.60

Appearance: dark burgundy
Nose: berry with a meaty, gamey edge
Taste: robust, old world classic, chewy with tastes of vanilla sweetness, leather and ripe, raisiny berry

BARONE RICASOLI BROLIO CHIANTI CLASSICO 1997 (TUSCANY) $15.80

Appearance: dark violet-ruby red
Nose: violets, woodsy, ripe berry
Taste: spicy, ripe plums, and blackberries; firm, focused and quite concentrated

MASI CAMPOFIORIN RESERVE 1996 (VENETO) $15.45

Appearance: dark garnet
Nose: berry, raisin and spice
Taste: refermented on Amarone Pomace, full-bodied, velvety power with quite intense dried fruit and spice flavours within a firm, tight structure

---

Margaret Swaine is a Toronto-based wine writer, as well as a consultant to the hospitality industry.



The True Millennium Best

How to serve

In a flute or tulip glass, at about 8°C-44°F Tiny bubbles will rise in a continu ous stream (the bead) Pour a little into each glass and allow it to settle Then fill each glass two-thirds full.

How to open

The internal pressure is 90 lbs per square inch. Angle the bottle away from yourself and guests. Put a thumb on the cork, twist and loosen the wire muzzle Grasp the cork firmly, twist the bottle slowly and let the pressure help push out the cork.

How to chill

In bucket of ice and water for 30 to 40 minutes or in the fridge (not freezer!) for several hours

How to Store

In a cool, dark place away from heat, light, vibration and temperature variations. Champagne is ready when it's shipped to the market.



Mousse Hunting...

by Frank Baldock

For life's headiest moments, for *l'amour* for sheer *joie de vivre*, champagne is the most perfect tipple The most fun, too! And, now that the "true" millennium's here, with out that scary Y2K stuff, it's time to uncork some more – for New Year's, and anytime "For the new millennium, the world's appetite for champagne has never been so big and so universal Good vintages are coming, with high levels of stocks," Daniel Lorson of the *Comite Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne* tells *Winetidings*.

Any unsold bottles are currently being offered at attractive prices in European supermarkets. Magnums are excellent value and prices should remain stable. "After the '95s, the '96s should be *the* vintage of the end of the 20th century It should age slowly but beautifully and you should wait until 2005 to enjoy the best! The '99 vintage was plentiful and the quality is good to outstanding, especially the Chardonnay-based blends (Blanc de blancs) " Around the planet, 50 champagne corks are popped every second, every day, some like a lover's sigh, some like rifle-shots, each delivering 50 million tiny bubbles. Canadians guzzled 2 5 million bottles last year, a record. The French savoured 190 million and exported 136 million That's one-third of a billion sold, and the cool chalk cellars in Rheims and Epernay are quietly maturing a billion more

Champagne in its (very thick glass) bottle is under six times atmospheric pressure compressing all that sparkling carbon dioxide gas from the second fermentation into the liquid wine. It's just waiting to burst out in the typical pinpoint bubbles, the mousse. The best champagne has the tiniest bubbles. Big bubbles are dismissed as *oeil de crapaud* toad's eyes.

Frank Baldock is president of the Wine Writers' Circle and editor of Wine Express

How to put more fizz into your life

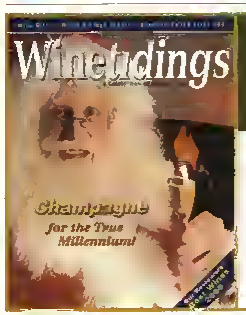
BOLLINGER CUVEE BRUT, $48 35
Straw-gold, with a cut of intense green-apple acidity and a whiff of brioche, ripe sweet apple and grilled hazelnut flavours a fine mousse, and crisp finish

DEUTZ CUVEE WILLIAM DEUTZ '90, $149 90
Lovely, elegant scented nose, ethereal, classy wine, with finesse, intense almost tropical fruit, white flowers and brioche character

FEUILLATTE BRUT RESERVE $36 90
Pale straw-gold, the bouquet hints at fresh-toasted biscuit and apple; more apple-ripe pear notes in the mouth, and a racy, clean aftertaste

KRUG VINTAGE '89 MAGNUM $339 95
Cask fermented (in old oak) like all Krugs, rich, fragrant, complex, and assembled from 47 top crus, all of this superb vintage, drinking well now and good for at least 10 years, great food wine, perfect for a culinary *coup de theâtre*

LANSON BLACK LABEL BRUT $43 45
Straw with hints of Pinot Noir amber and fine bubbles, toast and honey on the nose, with ripe red fruit and citrus, full, fruity, yet light; racy and long



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In search of a superhero



Jackson: the movie reprises the mood of The Sixth Sense, *but can't escape its shadow*

Unbreakable
Directed by M. Night Shyamalan

Comic books are destroying the youth of America—or so *Unbreakable* seems to say. The new movie by M. Night Shyamalan, writer and director of last year's Oscar-nominated *The Sixth Sense*, suggests that, more than TV violence or rap lyrics, the superheroes and villains in comics are corrupting the minds of children with their eternal battles between good and evil. And in *Unbreakable*, one comic lover's search for a superhero has dire consequences.

Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), owner of a comic-book gallery, suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, a disease that weakens bone density. His fragility has meant a lifetime in casts, completely immersed in comic book logic. Price believes that someone out there must be his exact opposite, unbreakable. When he hears of David Dunn (Bruce Willis), the sole survivor of a train wreck who walked away unharmed, Price thinks he has found his hero. As it turns out, Dunn does have supernatural strength and a sixth sense. When he touches strangers, he can see their previous criminal acts—in other words, Dunn sees bad people. But in this instance, bad people—including a drug dealer and a homicidal janitor—aren't as scary as *The Sixth Sense*'s dead people.

Shyamalan skilfully draws out the film's suspense, adding a few twists and turns—but nothing matching the originality of *The Sixth Sense*'s shock ending. And Jackson, adorned with a distracting, lopsided hairdo, is at this point in his career verging on caricature. In *Unbreakable*, he raises his trademark cool, calm voice to sternly lecture the unsuspecting—as he has done, with diminishing effect, in every role since *Pulp Fiction*. Willis, on the other hand, is even more subdued than he was in *The Sixth Sense*. Dunn was once a football star, but his spirit is now broken. He works security at the stadium, cowering inside his rain slicker—a post-modern superhero's cape. Robin Wright Penn's nuanced acting as Willis's wife and Jackson's physical therapist strikes a balance between her co-stars, giving her role more importance than it was probably meant to have.

Shyamalan, under pressure to deliver another Oscar contender, was inevitably tempted by last year's winning formula. But by recycling Willis's performance and the mood of *The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable* is unable to escape its shadow.

Shanda Deziel

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A new crop of books on the national game travels far across the globe and deep into the past

Hockey's New Roots

By D'Arcy Jenish

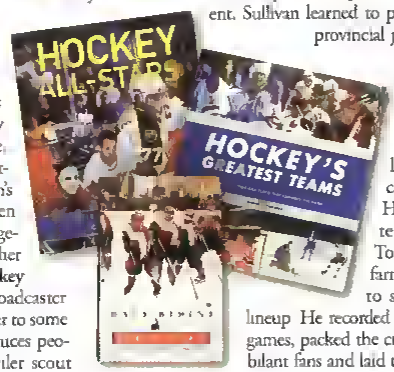




The 1930s Preston Rivulettes, Rocket Richard (opposite), the sport's transition from pond to rink, from Canada to the world

One of hockey's most charming tales involves an epic journey by the Dawson City Nuggets, who travelled nearly 5,000 km by foot, sea and rail from the Yukon to Ottawa for a crack at the Stanley Cup in January, 1905. The Nuggets lost—badly, as it turned out—but have come to symbolize a time when the game was young, when amateurs prevailed and played for joy rather than money. There are still places where the sport is new and unspoiled, but it takes an enterprising travellet to find them, as Toronto rock musician-writer Dave Bidini reveals in his sparkling new book, **Tropic of Hockey: My Search for the Game in Unlikely Places** (McClelland & Stewart, $32.99). Bidini journeyed to Romania, the United Arab Emirates, northern China—and Hong Kong, where he witnessed Asia's largest annual tournament and the victory lap of the jubilant UAE Nats. "They skated the perimeter of the ice, crouching behind one another in a crazy speeding train," he writes, "15 bearded faces aglow with victory."

Bidini's survey of hockey in exotic locales is full of such spontaneous shows of joy and enthusiasm, which are all too rare at a time when the pro season lasts nearly 10 months and too many teams favour defence over offence. The book is also a refreshing departure from many of the fall season's other hockey offerings—an uneven mix of life stories and glossy, large-format histories. But there is another title—**Ice Time: A Canadian Hockey Journey** (Viking, $32.99) by broadcaster Scott Russell—that takes the reader to some out-of-the way locales and introduces people, like longtime Edmonton Oiler scout Lorne Davis, with a youthful love of the game. "I'd be a pretty lonely man if I couldn't go to hockey games anymore," says Davis, who is nearing 70. "I get the feeling if I ever quit I wouldn't last too long."



A love of hockey prompted Russell to embark on a "hockey journey" from Atlantic to Pacific in search of ordinary Canadians who share his passion. The most touching story involves Newfoundlander Andy Sullivan, a fish-plant worker in Witless Bay, near St. John's, and a great natural hockey talent. Sullivan learned to play outside before starring in a provincial junior league. He eventually received a tryout offer in the early 1980s from the NHL's Hartford Whalers, but was too shy and uncertain of his abilities to accept. For years, Newfoundland hockey fans wondered could Sullivan have played pro? He finally showed them the winter of 1993-1994, when the Toronto Maple Leafs' St. John's farm team recruited him, at age 32, to shore up their injury-riddled lineup. He recorded three goals and six assists in 16 games, packed the city's Memorial Stadium with jubilant fans and laid to rest all doubts. "Sully answers the big question," a local newspaper declared after his debut. And along the way, he earned a place in the lore of a hockey-loving country.

This fall's hockey biographies and life stories mostly chronicle existence within the ruthless, often cutthroat professional ranks. The best of them is **Keenan: The High Times and Misadventures of Hockey's Most Controversial Coach** (Stoddart, $29.95) by Jeff Gordon, sportswriter with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. He portrays 51-year-old Toronto native Mike Keenan, currently running his sixth NHL team, the Boston Bruins, as a man who will insult, humiliate and harass players to motivate them. He has made enemies—like former Chicago Blackhawk greats Denis Savard and Doug Wilson—but he also wins. He has made four trips to the Stanley Cup final, winning in 1994 with the New York Rangers. "There's a little psycho-ness in him, an unpredictability," says Phoenix Coyote centre Jeremy Roenick. "Sometimes between periods, you'd have to cover up for fear of getting hurt. He'd just go nutso. He'd be swinging sticks and throwing skates."

The most troubling tale can be found in **Centre Ice: The Smythe Family, the Gardens and the Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Club** (Penn, $32.95) by Thomas Stafford Smythe with Kevin Shea. The 54-year-old author starts at the beginning, with grandfather Conn, the legendary Leaf founder and builder of the Gardens. But the real object of interest is his father and namesake, Stafford, an alcoholic who was arrested shortly before his death in October, 1971, at the age of 50, along with partner Harold Ballard, on charges of defrauding the Gardens of several hundred thousand dollars. The author alleges that Ballard prepared a will that deprived the Smythe family of control of the Gardens and the Leafs, and convinced Stafford—then in a drunken stupor—to sign it, unread. *Centre Ice* is a son's attempt to rehabilitate his father's reputation. Unfortunately, Stafford Smythe comes across, even here, as a flawed individual who let it all slip away.

For links
www.macleans.ca

Ballard also figures prominently in **Brian McFarlane's World of Hockey** (Stoddart, $29.95), a memoir by the longtime broadcaster and prolific author of more than 50 books about the game. McFarlane's career as a *Hockey Night in Canada* commentator ended during the 1981-1982 season, after nearly 20 years, when Ballard banned him from the Gardens for criticizing the team's treatment of its star player, Darryl Sittler. The former colour man belatedly evens the score, describing Ballard as racist, sexist and obnoxious. He also recounts how in 1975 Ballard sent top prospect Doug Jarvis to the Montreal Canadiens in exchange for a minor leaguer named Greg Hubick because he didn't like the fact that Jarvis was a born-again Christian. "Jarvis would go on to win four Stanley Cups and appear in an NHL record of 964 consecutive games," McFarlane writes. "Hubick would score six goals in a 77-game NHL career."

The large-format books include two titles devoted to the NHL's annual all-star game, which are likely to appeal to only the most diehard students of the sport, since the contests themselves are basically meaningless exhibitions. There are two others, however, that may provoke some debate among hard-core fans. In **Hockey's Greatest Teams, Players and Plays that Changed the Game** (Penguin, $35), Toronto writer Andrew Podnieks has made some predictable choices—the 1959-1960 Canadiens and the 1987-1988 Oilers. But others, like the 1924 Toronto Granites and a 1930s women's club from Preston, Ont., will surely raise eyebrows. And lists designed to stimulate debate—the best NHL role players and the 25 top Europeans of all time—form a big part of **The Hockey News Century of Hockey: A Season-by-Season Celebration** (McClelland & Stewart, $29.99).

For readers with an appetite for more substantial fare, there is Michael McKinley's **Putting a Roof on Winter: Hockey's Rise from Sport to Spectacle** (Greystone, $34.95). McKinley, a freelance journalist in Vancouver, has written an account of the first century of indoor hockey, roughly from 1875 to 1975. The best parts of the book deal with hockey's transition from the pond to the rink, and the many colourful characters from those early years—including Cyclone Taylor, the Patrick brothers and Howie Morenz. The author also pays appropriate attention to James Creighton, the Halifax-born engineer who wrote the first set of rules as a young man in Montreal and did more than anyone to bring hockey inside. "His vision gave hockey the chance to evolve from a tough-hewn pond game into the world's greatest winter sport," McKinley writes, "and to those who love it, the greatest sport, period."

Entertainment Notes

Prettification with purpose

Recently in Montreal, they decorated trees with pink ornaments at a busy intersection. Last week in Toronto, they offered free lint removal to the rush-hour crowd at an underground-mall entrance in the financial district. Wearing lace-trimmed uniforms and smiles, the three call themselves the Ladies' Afternoon Art Society and say they are dedicated to making the world a prettier, tidier, happier place. But in fact, Sueann, Susan and Susanne—they will not say what their real names are—are Vancouver-based performance artists who won't step out of character, and refer to their shows only as "projects" or "activities." During the brief, aborted stunt in Toronto, one passerby snorted, "Oh for crying out loud!" when asked if she'd like lint removed from her coat. "Some people are very appreciative," insists Sueann, "but the security guard asked us to stop." At an earlier performance last Valentine's Day at Vancouver's Pacific Centre, the women were escorted out by mall security after an hour for "soliciting." Everyone's a critic.



Joel Sax /Associates

The Ladies' tidying the world with free lint removal

This hamster is hot



He's the little rodent that could. Hampton, a real-life hamster from Nanaimo, B.C., was the inspiration for the Web site *www.hamsterdance2.com*. It features animated creatures dancing to *The Hamsterdance Song*, a sped-up version of Roger Miller's *The Whistle Stop*. Hampton the Hamster now fronts a hit single and an album. In July, 1998, Hampton's owner, Deidre LaCart, an art student who was then 37, took on a wager with her sister and her best friend as to who could build the most popular Web site. LaCart's Hampton site won paws down—within six months it had attracted more than 30,000 hits (to date there have been 75 million). The following year, she teamed up with entrepreneur Jeff Lane, who helped make *Hamsterdance* a dance-club hit. The real-life Hampton "just turned 3," reports LaCart, "and has a bigger cage and a bedroom to himself now that he's a star."

Asian splendour

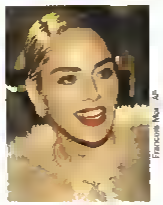
Early this month, Canadian philanthropists Joey and Toby Tanenbaum gave a collection of Chinese and Near Eastern antiquities valued at more than $100 million to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto—believed to be the largest single gift to a cultural institution in Canadian history. Now, the gift of $1 million from another Canadian, financier turned adventurer Christopher Ondaatje, 67, is about to bear fruit. On Nov. 30, the ROM will unveil its new, 2,500-square-foot Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery to house the ROM's collection of classical and current artifacts from the diverse region. South Asian communities across Canada and the ROM itself are matching Ondaatje's gift, to finance a South Asian curator and the purchase of more artifacts, respectively. Says Ondaatje: "I'm introducing a young country to one of the oldest civilizations in the world."



Dancing Shiva *statue' diversity*

Cronenberg's basic instinct

Canadian director David Cronenberg is involved in yet another controversial project. The maker of such cutting-edge movies as *Dead Ringers* and *Crash* has signed on to direct the sequel to *Basic Instinct*, a project most of the original cast and crew—with the exception of Sharon Stone—have panned. Michael Douglas nixed the idea of returning, while the original's director, Paul Verhoeven, expressed doubts in August. Stone is reported to be getting $23 million to reprise her role as the murderous novelist from the 1992 thriller, which grossed more than $180 million and made her a mega-star—amid widespread criticism that the movie was exploitative.



Francois Rea /Ap

Stone, getting murderous again

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Entertainment Notes

Buried treasure

When the editors of the Toronto literary magazine *Brick*—Michael Ondaatje, Michael Redhill, and Esta and Linda Spalding—asked contributors for short essays about forgotten favourite books, they ended up with 73 eclectic contributions. Now published as *Lost Classics* (Knopf Canada), the essays include Helen Garner's recollection of a vaguely sinister Australian kids' story from the 1940s, *The Journey of the Stamp Animals*, and Brian Brett's memories of *Classics Revisited* by poet and vaudeville actor Kenneth Rexroth. Itself an attempt to bring old texts to modern light, Rexroth's 30-year-old work is marked by its author's knack for metaphor, writes fellow poet Brett. For his description alone of the Roman historian Tacitus' turgid prose, Rexroth merits wider fame: "a style like a tray of dental instruments."



Best-Sellers

Fiction

		POSITION LAST WEEK
1.	THE BLIND ASSASSIN, Margaret Atwood (12)	1
2	WINTER'S HEART Robert Jordan (1)	
3	MERCY AMONG THE CHILDREN, David Adams Richards (9)	3
4.	VINYL CAFE UNPLUGGED, Stuart McLean (2)	4
5.	ANIL'S GHOST Michael Ondaatje (34)	2
6.	THE AMBER SPYGLASS, Philip Pullman (5)	7
7.	MERRICK, Anne Rice (3)	8
8	THE LAST PRECINCT Patricia Cornwell (4)	5
9	PRODIGAL SUMMER, Barbara Kingsolver (1)	
10.	NO GREAT MISCHIEF, Alistair MacLeod (55)	9

Nonfiction

1.	THE INGENUITY GAP, Thomas Homer-Dixon (4)	1
2.	THE GEOMETRY OF LOVE, Margaret Visser (7)	2
3.	FROM PARIS TO THE MOON, Adam Gopnik (3)	5
4	ONE GOOD TURN, Witold Rybczynski (10)	6
5	THE BEATLES ANTHOLOGY, The Beatles (6)	3
6.	THE SPINSTER AND THE PROPHET, A.B. McKillop (3)	9
7.	THE GOLDEN THREAD, Bruce Meyer (1)	
8.	THE STORYTELLER, Anna Porter (2)	4
9	THE ISLAND OF LOST MAPS, Miles Harvey (5)	7
10.	IN A SUNBURNED COUNTRY, Bill Bryson (23)	10

( ) Weeks on list. *Compiled by Brian Bethune*

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Allan Fotheringham

A passionate politician

The taunt comes often, to a columnist who makes a living by instructing, lecturing, hectoring and advising politicians how to do their job "If you're so smart, why don't you run for politics?"

The answer is always the same: "A journalist who wants to be a politician is like a jockey who wants to become a horse."

The reason, it would seem to me, why columnists would make lousy politicians is that the whole philosophy of column-writing is the unassailable belief that the scribbler is right on everything. Never take a backward step. You gotta believe in what you believe.

All politics, of course, is the opposite: the art of compromise, the art of the possible. Compromise, prevarication, slow everything down, change tacks, reverse principles, make friends with your enemies if necessary, make enemies of your friends if required. It's not a bed for a journalist.



Ray Peterson

It's why so few are a success at the transition. The *Vancouver Sun* provided some examples. Barry Mather, whose column was so witty it was carried on the front page every day, went to Ottawa as an NDP believer and disappeared as an MP. Paul St. Pierre, a serious man, went on the Liberal ticket and was never so disillusioned in his life. Simma Holt, the only woman in the world I've ever been afraid of, went as a Liberal MP and—I see the other day—is back writing a column.

Peter Worthington, the ferocious right-wing columnist for the right-wing *Toronto Sun*, threw fear into the spine of then-Tory Leader Brian Mulroney by trying to get into the Commons as a Conservative MP. He got a Toronto nomination, but lost the election. John Harvard, a noisy Winnipeg hotliner, has become invisible on the Grit backbench.

The only two exceptions to the rule I can think of are Winston Churchill and René Lévesque. Winnie, as a journalist covering the Boer War, became famous by his celebrated escape after his arrest by the Boers. He covered the Spanish-American War in Cuba and, never really having any money in his life, supported himself between two world wars through journalism and lecturing in America.

René was a brilliant war correspondent with the American forces, went through the London Blitz with Edward R. Murrow, saw Mussolini's body hanging in a street in Italy, covered the Korean War for Radio-Canada. Described, accurately, as "a radical gynophile" (or womanizer), he was driven into politics by a long and vicious strike against his CBC bosses.

All this musing comes about because of the interesting decision of Michael Valpy, a *Globe and Mail* scribbler, to seek the Commons as NDP candidate in the polyglot Toronto riding of Trinity-Spadina.

Valpy is an intriguing, passionate character. He used to ride his bike through his Ottawa newsroom. He has won three National Newspaper Awards in his 30 years in journalism. He was married to Amanda Valpy, the classy head librarian at the paper where he works. He was married to Deborah Coyne, a constitutional lawyer who was the adviser to the anti-Meech Lake premier of Newfoundland, Clyde Wells, and later mother of the daughter fathered by a 71-year-old Pierre Trudeau.

Trinity-Spadina stretches from the Annex—a trendy mix of students and Toronto literati where Valpy lives—down through Chinatown, where inhabitants traditionally reward Liberal immigration policies. It was held for nearly a decade by the NDP's Dan Heap, but retained last time by less than 2,000 votes by Liberal Tony Ianno, who proved to be a mere cipher in the Ottawa zoo act. If Valpy—on leave from his paper—can win, it will probably be the only Toronto seat the decimated NDP can grasp.

The other night, in wealthy Rosedale, there was a party at the magnificent old home of Clayton Ruby, the wealthy lawyer, for some 60 wealthy socialists. Patrick Watson, the celebrated broadcaster, introduced Valpy. Patrick's son, Chris Watson, has taken time off from the NDP research office at Queen's Park to be Valpy's campaign manager. Attending was Joey Slinger, *The Toronto Star*'s off-the-wall columnist.

After the very nice chicken-and-artichoke pie, Jack Layton stood on a chair and demanded money for Valpy's campaign. Layton is a heavyweight Toronto city councillor who is obviously going to run for mayor once Mel Lastman's tongue runs out—it now being on its last marathon lap.

He started off at 2,500 bucks. He got sufficient hands. He moved it down, gradually, to $100. He shouted "Come on, you Cadillac liberals from the Annex!" There were hisses. Then cheers, obviously from the real Cadillac liberals. Slinger's wife opens her purse and writes a cheque. After 20 minutes, Layton has raised $20,000.

We wish Valpy well. Ottawa needs someone who is passionate—and believes in what he believes.

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